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## (54) Albumin derivatives with therapeutic functions

Albumin-Derivate mit therapeutischer Funktion

Dérivés de l'albumine à fonction thérapeutique

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(73) Proprietor: RHONE-POULENC RORER S.A.  
92160 Antony (FR)

## (72) Inventors:

- Becquart, Jérôme  
F-75015 Paris (FR)
- Fleer, Reinhard  
F-9110 Gif Sur Yvette (FR)
- Hirel, Philippe Hervé  
F-75003 Paris (FR)
- Klatzmann, David Robert  
F-75003 Paris (FR)
- Landais, Didier  
F-75013 Paris (FR)
- Mayaux, Jean-François  
F-92260 Fontenay aux Roses (FR)
- Yeh, Patrice  
F-75005 Paris (FR)

(74) Representative: Warcoin, Jacques et al  
Cabinet Régimbeau,  
26, avenue Kléber  
75116 Paris (FR)

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**Description**

The present invention involves the utilization of albumin derivatives in the fabrication of therapeutic agents that can be used in the treatment of certain viral diseases and cancers. More precisely, this invention involves hybrid macromolecules characterized by the covalent coupling of the active domain of a receptor to albumin or a variant of albumin, in which the active domain of the receptor is the active domain of a receptor intervening in the internalization of infectious virions complexed to immunoglobulins, or the active domain of a receptor of a factor intervening in an oncogenic process, or the V<sub>1</sub> domain or V<sub>1</sub>V<sub>2</sub> domains of the CD<sub>4</sub> molecule of HIV 1. In the text that follows, the terms albumin derivatives or albumin variants are meant to designate all proteins with a high plasma half-life obtained by modification (mutation, deletion, and/or addition) via the techniques of genetic engineering of a gene encoding a given isomorph of albumin, as well as all macromolecules with high plasma half-life obtained by the *in vitro* modification of the protein encoded by such genes. Such albumin derivatives can be used as pharmaceuticals in antiviral treatment due to the high affinity of a virus or of an immunoglobulin bound to a virus for a site of fixation present on the albumin derivative. They can be used as pharmaceuticals in the treatment of certain cancers due to the affinity of a ligand, for example a growth factor, for a site of fixation present on the albumin derivative, especially when such a ligand is associated with a particular membrane receptor whose amplification is correlated with a transforming phenotype (proto-oncogenes). It should be understood in the text that follows that all functionally therapeutic albumin derivatives are designated indifferently by the generic term of hybrid macromolecules with antiviral function, or hybrid macromolecules with anti-cancer function, or simply hybrid macromolecules. In particular, the present invention consists in the obtention of new therapeutic agents characterized by the coupling, through chemical or genetic engineering techniques, of at least two distinct functions :

(i) a stable plasma transporter function provided by any albumin variant, and in particular by human serum albumin (HSA). The genes coding for HSA are highly polymorphic and more than 30 different genetic alleles have been reported (Weitkamp L.R. et al., Ann. Hum. Genet. 37 (1973) 219-226). The albumin molecule, whose three-dimensional structure has been characterized by X-ray diffraction (Carter D.C. et al., Science 244 (1989) 1195-1198), was chosen to provide the stable transporter function because it is the most abundant plasma protein (40 g per liter in humans), it has a high plasma half-life (14-20 days in humans, Waldmann T.A., in "Albumin Structure, Function and Uses", Rosenoer V.M. et al. (eds), Pergamon Press, Oxford, (1977) 255-275), and above all it has the advantage of being devoid of enzymatic function, thus permitting its therapeutic utilization at high doses.

(ii) an antiviral or anticancer therapeutic function. The antiviral function is to serve as a decoy for the specific binding of a virus, or as a decoy for the binding of a virus-immunoglobulin complex. For example, the antiviral function can be provided by all or part of a specific receptor normally used by a virus for its propagation in the host organism or by any molecule capable of binding such a virus with an affinity high enough to permit its utilization *in vivo* as an antiviral agent. The antiviral function can also be provided by all or part of a receptor capable of recognizing immunoglobulins complexed with a virus, or by any molecule capable of binding such complexes with an affinity high enough to permit its utilization *in vivo* as an antiviral agent. The anti-cancer function is to serve as a decoy for binding of a factor implicated in an oncogenic process, and is provided by all or part of a cellular proto-oncogene, or by any molecule capable of binding such a factor with an affinity high enough to allow its utilization *in vivo* as an anticancer agent.

(iii) in cases where a high local concentration of the therapeutic function is desirable, for example because it synergizes an inhibition of the infectivity of a virus *in vivo*, a third function allowing the dimerization or the polymerization of the therapeutically active hybrid macromolecule can be added, possibly in a redundant fashion. For example such a function could be provided by a "leucine zipper" motif (Landschulz W.H. et al., Science 240 (1988) 1759-1764), or by protein domains known to be necessary for homodimerization of certain proteins such as the domain of the product of the tal gene coded by the HIV-1 viral genome (Frankel A.D. et al., Science 240 (1988) 70-73; Frankel A.D. et al., Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 85 (1988) 6297-6300).

In the present invention, the plasma transporter function, the therapeutic function, and a potential polymerization function, are integrated into the same macromolecule using the techniques of genetic engineering.

One of the goals of the present invention is to obtain hybrid macromolecules derived from HSA which can be useful in the fight against certain viral diseases, such as Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS). Another goal is to obtain hybrid HSA macromolecular derivatives useful in the treatment of certain cancers, notably those cancers associated with genomic amplification and/or overexpression of human proto-oncogenes, such as the proto-oncogene erbB-2 (Semba K. et al., Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA. 82 (1985) 6497-6501; Slamon D.J. et al., Science 235 (1987) 177-182; Kraus M.H. et al., EMBO J. 6 (1987) 605-610).

The HIV-1 virus is one of the retroviruses responsible for Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome in man. This virus has been well studied over the past five years; a fundamental discovery concerns the elucidation of the role of the CD4

(T4) molecule as the receptor of the HIV-1 virus (Dagleish A.G. et al., *Nature* 312 (1984) 763-767; Klatzmann D. et al., *Nature* 312 (1984) 767-768). The virus-receptor interaction occurs through the highly specific binding of the viral envelope protein (gp120) to the CD4 molecule (McDougal et al., *Science* 231 (1986) 382-385). The discovery of this interaction between the HIV-1 virus and certain T lymphocytes was the basis of a patent claiming the utilization of the T4 molecule or its antibodies as therapeutic agents against the HIV-1 virus (French patent application FR 2 570 278).

The cloning and the first version of the sequence of the gene encoding human CD4 has been described by Maddon et al. (*Cell* 42 (1985) 93-104), and a corrected version by Littmann et al. (*Cell* 55 (1988) 541): the CD4 molecule is a member of the super-family of immunoglobulins and specifically, it carries a V1 N-terminal domain which is substantially homologous to the immunoglobulin heavy chain variable domain (Maddon P.J. et al., *Cell* 42 (1985) 93-104). Experiments involving *in vitro* DNA recombination, using the gene coding for the CD4 molecule, have provided definite proof that the product of the CD4 gene is the principal receptor of the HIV-1 virus (Maddon P.J. et al., *Cell* 47 (1986) 333-348). The sequence of this gene as well as its utilization as an anti-HIV-1 therapeutic agent are discussed in International patent application WO 88 013 040 A1.

The manipulation of the CD4 gene by the techniques of DNA recombination has provided a series of first generation soluble variants capable of antiviral action *in vitro* (Smith D.H. et al., *Science* 238 (1987) 1704-1707; Traunecker A. et al., *Nature* 331 (1988) 84-86; Fischer R.A. et al., *Nature* 331 (1988) 76-78; Hussey R.E. et al., *Nature* 331 (1988) 78-81; Deen K.C. et al., *Nature* 331 (1988) 82-84), and *in vivo* (Watanabe M. et al., *Nature* 337 (1989) 267-270). In all cases, it was observed during various *in vivo* assays in animals (rabbit, monkey) as well as during phase I clinical trials, that the first generation soluble CD4 variant consisting of the CD4 molecule lacking the two domains in the C-terminal region has a very short half-life: approximately 15 minutes in rabbits (Capon et al., *Nature* 337 (1989) 525-531), while 50% of first generation soluble CD4 administered intramuscularly to Rhesus monkeys remained bioavailable for 6 hours (Watanabe et al., *Nature* 337 (1989) 267-270). In addition, Phase I clinical trials conducted on 60 patients presenting AIDS or ARC ("Aids Related Complex") indicated that the half-life of the Genentech product varied between 60 minutes (intravenous administration) and 9 hours (intramuscular administration) (AIDS/HIV Experimental Treatment Directory, AmFAR, May 1989). Clearly, a therapeutic agent with such a weak stability *in vivo* constitutes a major handicap. In effect, repeated injections of the product, which are costly and inconvenient for the patient, or an administration of the product by perfusion, become necessary to attain an efficient concentration in plasma. It is therefore especially important to find derivatives of the CD4 molecule characterized by a much higher *in vivo* half-life.

European patent application EP-A-0314317 discloses, novel derivatives of cell surface proteins which are homologous to the immunoglobulin superfamily and possess an improved biological half-life. It discloses in particular a polypeptide comprising a CD4 amino-acid sequence crosslinked to albumin.

The part of the CD4 molecule which interacts with the HIV-1 virus has been localized to the N-terminal region, and in particular to the V1 domain (Berger E.A. et al., *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 85 (1987) 2357-2361). It has been observed that a significant proportion (about 10 %) of HIV-1-infected subjects develop an immune response against CD4 receptor, with antibodies directed against the C-terminal region of the extra-cellular portion of the receptor (Thiria C. et al., *AIDS* 2 (1988) 345-352; Chams V. et al., *AIDS* 2 (1988) 353-361). Therefore, according to a preferred embodiment of the present invention, only the N-terminal domains V1 or V1V2 of the CD4 molecule, which carry all the viral binding activity, will be used in fusion with the stable transporter function derived from albumin.

On the basis of the homology observed with the variable domain of immunoglobulins, several laboratories have constructed genetic fusions between the CD4 molecule and different types of immunoglobulins, generating hybrid immunoglobulins with antiviral action *in vitro* (Capon D.J. et al., *Nature* 337 (1989) 525-531; Traunecker A. et al., *Nature* 339 (1989) 68-70; also see International patent application WO 89 02922). However, the implication of the Fc<sub>Y</sub>RIII receptor (type 3 receptor for the Fc region of IgG's), which in humans is the antigen CD16 (Unkeless J.C. and Jacquinat C., *J. Immunol. Meth.* 100 (1987) 235-241), in the internalization of the HIV-1 virus (Homsy J. et al., *Science* 244 (1989) 1357-1360) suggests an important role of these receptors in viral propagation *in vivo*. The receptor, which has been recently cloned (Simmons D. and Seed B., *Nature* 333 (1988) 568-570), is mainly located in the membranes of macrophages, polynuclear cells and granulocytes, but in contrast to CD4, the CD16 receptor also exists in a soluble state in serum (Khayat D. et al., *J. Immunol.* 132 (1984) 2496-2501; Khayat D. et al., *J. Immunol. Meth.* 100 (1987) 235-241). It should be noted that the membranous CD16 receptor is used as a second route of entry by the HIV-1 virus to infect macrophages, due to the presence of facilitating antibodies (Homsy J. et al., *Science* 244 (1989) 1357-1360). This process of infection which involves an "Fc receptor" at the surface of target cells (for example the CD16 receptor), and the Fc region of antibodies directed against the virion, is named ADE ("Antibody Dependent Enhancement"); it has also been described for the flavivirus (Peiris J.S. et al., *Nature* 289 (1981) 189-191) and the Visna-Maedi ovine lentivirus (Jolly P.E. et al., *J. Virol.* 63 (1989) 1811-1813). Other "Fc receptors" have been described for IgG's (Fc<sub>Y</sub>RI and Fc<sub>Y</sub>RII for example) as well as for other classes of immunoglobulins, and the ADE phenomenon also involves other types of "Fc receptors" such as that recognized by the monoclonal antibody 3G8 (Homsy J. et al., *Science* 244 (1989) 1357-1360; Takeda A. et al., *Science* 242 (1988) 580-583). One can thus call into question the efficiency of hybrid antiviral macromolecules which depend uniquely on fusions between immunoglobulins and all or

part of a receptor normally used by a virus such as HIV-1 for its propagation in the host; in effect, the presence of a functional Fc fragment on such molecules could actually facilitate viral infection of certain cell types. It is also important to obtain CD4 derivatives that can be used at high therapeutic concentrations.

A different type of chimeric construction involving the bacterial protein MalE and the CD4 molecule has been studied (Clément J.M. et al., C.R. Acad. Sci. Paris 308, series III (1989) 401-406). Such a fusion allows one to take advantage of the properties of the MalE protein, in particular regarding the production and/or purification of the hybrid protein. In addition, the construction of a genetic fusion between the CD4 molecule and a bacterial toxin has also been described (Chaudhary V.K. et al., Nature 335 (1988) 369-372). In these cases, utilization of a genetic fusion involving a bacterial protein for therapy in humans can be questionable.

The discovery of the role of the ADE phenomenon in the propagation of certain viruses, in particular lentiviruses including HIV-1, justifies the search for alternatives to both the development of an anti-AIDS vaccine, and to the development of therapeutic agents based solely on fusions between immunoglobulins and molecules capable of binding the virus. This is why the anti-AIDS therapeutic agents described in the present invention are based on the fusion of all or part of a receptor used directly or indirectly by the HIV-1 virus for its propagation in vivo, with a stable plasma protein, devoid of enzymatic activity, and lacking the Fc fragment.

In particular, the present invention concerns the coupling, mainly by genetic engineering, of human albumin variants with a binding site for the HIV-1 virus. Such hybrid macromolecules derived from human serum albumin are characterized by the presence of one or several variants of the CD4 receptor arising from the modification, particularly by in vitro DNA recombination techniques (mutation, deletion, and/or addition), of the N-terminal domain of the CD4 receptor, which is implicated in the specific interaction of the HIV-1 virus with target cells. Such hybrid macromolecules circulating in the plasma represent stable decoys with an antiviral function, and will be designated by the generic term HSA-CD4. Another goal of this invention concerns the coupling of human albumin variants with variants of the CD16 molecule, which is implicated in the internalization of viruses including HIV-1 (to be designated by the generic term HSA-CD16), and in general the coupling of albumin variants with molecules capable of mimicking the cellular receptors responsible for the ADE phenomenon of certain viruses, and in particular the lentiviruses.

The principles of the present invention can also be applied to other receptors used directly or indirectly by a human or animal virus for its propagation in the host organism. For example:

- 1/ intercellular adhesion molecule 1 (ICAM-1), shown to be the receptor for human rhinovirus HRV14 (Greve J.M. et al., Cell 56 (1989) 839-847; Staunton D.E. et al., Cell 56 (1989) 849-853);
- 2/ poliovirus receptor, recently cloned by Mendelsohn et al. (Cell 56 (1989) 855-865);
- 3/ the receptor of complement factor C3D which is the receptor of Epstein-Barr virus (EBV) in human cells (Fin-geroth J.D. et al., Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 81 (1984) 4510-4514), this virus being responsible for infectious mononucleosis and for certain lymphomas in man;
- 4/ human T cell leukemia virus HTLV-I and HTLV-II receptors, recently mapped to chromosome 17 (Sommerfelt M.A. et al., Science 242 (1988) 1557-1559), these viruses being responsible for adult T cell leukemia as well as for tropical spastic paraparesis (HTLV-I) and tricholeucocytic leukemia (HTLV-II);
- 5/ the receptor of the ecotropic murine leukemia virus MuLV-E, mapped to chromosome 5 of the mouse by Oie et al. (Nature 274 (1978) 60-62) and recently cloned by Albritton et al. (Cell 57 (1989) 659-666).

Another goal of the present invention concerns the development of stable hybrid macromolecules with an anticancer function, obtained by the coupling of albumin variants with molecules able to bind growth factors which, in certain pathologies associated with the amplification of the corresponding membranous proto-oncogenes, can interact with their target cells and induce a transformed phenotype. An example of such receptors is the class of receptors with tyrosine kinase activity (Yarden Y. and Ulrich A., Biochemistry 27 (1988) 3113-3119), the best known being the epidermal growth factor (EGF) and the colony stimulating factor I (CSF-I) receptors, respectively coded by the proto-oncogenes c-erbB-1 (Downward J. et al., Nature 307 (1984) 521-527) and c-fms (Sherr C.J. et al., Cell 41 (1985) 665-676). Another example of such receptors includes the human insulin receptor (HIR), the platelet-derived growth factor (PDGF) receptor, the insulin-like growth factor I (IGF-I) receptor, and most notably the proto-oncogene c-erbB-2, whose genomic amplification and/or overexpression was shown to be strictly correlated with certain human cancers, in particular breast cancer (Slamon D.J. et al., Science 235 (1987) 177-182; Kraus M.H. et al., EMBO J. 6 (1987) 605-610). Furthermore, the principles put forth in the present invention can be equally applied to other receptors, for example the interleukin 6 (IL-6) receptor, which has been shown in vitro to be an autocrine factor in renal carcinoma cells (Miki S. et al., FEBS Lett., 250 (1989) 607-610).

As indicated above, the hybrid macromolecules of interest are substantially preferably proteinic and can therefore be generated by the techniques of genetic engineering. The preferred way to obtain these macromolecules is by the culture of cells transformed, transfected, or infected by vectors expressing the macromolecule. In particular, expression vectors capable of transforming yeasts, especially of the genus Kluyveromyces, for the secretion of proteins will be

used. Such a system allows for the production of high quantities of the hybrid macromolecule in a mature form, which is secreted into the culture medium, thus facilitating purification.

The preferred method for expression and secretion of the hybrid macromolecules consists therefore of the transformation of yeast of the genus Kluyveromyces by expression vectors derived from the extrachromosomal replicon pKD1, initially isolated from K. marxianus var. drosophilicola. These yeasts, and in particular K. marxianus (including the varieties lactis, drosophilicola and marxianus which are henceforth designated respectively as K. lactis, K. drosophilicola and K. fragilis), are generally capable of replicating these vectors in a stable fashion and possess the further advantage of being included in the list of G.R.A.S. ("Generally Recognized As Safe") organisms. The yeasts of particular interest include industrial strains of Kluyveromyces capable of stable replication of said plasmid derived from plasmid pKD1 into which has been inserted a selectable marker as well as an expression cassette permitting the secretion of the given hybrid macromolecule at high levels.

Three types of cloning vectors have been described for Kluyveromyces:

- i) Integrating vectors containing sequences homologous to regions of the Kluyveromyces genome and which, after being introduced into the cells, are integrated in the Kluyveromyces chromosomes by in vivo recombination (International patent application WO 83/04050). Integration, a rare event requiring an efficient selection marker, is obtained when these vectors do not contain sequences permitting autonomous replication in the cell. The advantage of this system is the stability of the transformed strains, meaning that they can be grown in a normal nutritive medium without the need for selection pressure to maintain the integrated sequences. The disadvantage, however, is that the integrated genes are present in only a very small number of copies per cell, which frequently results in a low level of production of a heterologous protein.
- ii) Replicating vectors containing Autonomously Replicating Sequences (ARS) derived from the chromosomal DNA of Kluyveromyces (Das S. and Hollenberg C.P., Current Genetics 6 (1982) 123-128; International patent application WO 83/04050). However these vectors are of only moderate interest, since their segregation in mitotic cell division is not homogeneous, which results in their loss from the cells at high frequency even under selection pressure.
- iii) Replicating vectors derived from naturally occurring yeast plasmids, either from the linear "killer" plasmid k1 isolated from K. lactis (de Louvencourt L. et al., J. Bacteriol. 154 (1983) 737-742; European patent application EP 0 095 986 A1, publ. 07.12.1983), or from the circular plasmid pKD1 isolated from K. drosophilicola (Chen X.J. et al., Nucl. Acids Res. 14 (1986) 4471-4480; Falcone C. et al., Plasmid 15 (1986) 248-252; European patent application EP 0 241 435 A2, publ. 14.10.1987). The vectors containing replicons derived from the linear "killer" plasmid require a special nutrient medium, and are lost in 40-99% of the cells after only 15 generations, even under selection pressure (European patent application EP 0 095 986 A1, 1983), which limits their use for mass production of heterologous proteins. The vectors derived from plasmid pKD1 described in European patent application EP 0 241 435 A2 are also very unstable since even the most performant vector (P3) is lost in approximately 70% of the cells after only six generations under nonselective growth conditions.

An object of the present invention concerns the utilization of certain plasmid constructions derived from the entire pKD1 plasmid; such constructions possess significantly higher stability characteristics than those mentioned in European patent application EP 0 241 435 A2. It will be shown in the present invention that these new vectors are stably maintained in over 80% of the cells after 50 generations under nonselective growth conditions.

The high stability of the vectors used in the present invention was obtained by exploiting fully the characteristics of plasmid pKD1. Besides an origin of replication, this extrachromosomal replicon system possesses two inverted repeats, each 346 nucleotides in length, and three open reading frames coding for genes A, B et C, whose expression is crucial for plasmid stability and high copy number. By analogy with the 2  $\mu$  plasmid of S. cerevisiae, which is structurally related to plasmid pKD1 (Chen X.J. et al., Nucl. Acids Res. 14 (1986) 4471-4480), the proteins encoded by genes B et C are probably involved in plasmid partitioning during mitotic cell division, and may play a role in the negative regulation of gene A which encodes a site-specific recombinase (FLP). It has been shown that the FLP-mediated recombination between the inverted repeats of the 2  $\mu$  plasmid of S. cerevisiae is the basis of a mechanism of autoregulation of the number of plasmid copies per cell: when copy number becomes too low to permit the production of sufficient quantities of the products of genes B and C, which act as repressors of gene A, the FLP recombinase is induced and the plasmid replicates according to a rolling circle type model, which amplifies copy number to about 50 copies per cell (Futcher A.B., Yeast 4 (1988) 27-40).

The vectors published in European patent application EP 0 241 435 A2 do not possess the above-mentioned structural characteristics of plasmid pKD1 of K. drosophilicola: vector A15 does not carry the complete sequence of pKD1, and vectors P1 and P3 carry an interrupted A gene, thereby destroying the system of autoregulated replication of resident plasmid pKD1. In contrast, the pKD1-derived constructs used in the present invention maintain the structural integrity of the inverted repeats and the open reading frames A, B and C, resulting in a notably higher stability of the plasmid as well as an increased level of secretion of the therapeutically active hybrid macromolecules.

The expression cassette will include a transcription initiation region (promoter) which controls the expression of the gene coding for the hybrid macromolecule. The choice of promoters varies according to the particular host used. These promoters derive from genes of Saccharomyces or Kluyveromyces type yeasts, such as the genes encoding phosphoglycerate kinase (PGK), glyceraldehyde-3-phosphate dehydrogenase (GPD), the lactase of Kluyveromyces (LAC4), the enolases (ENO), the alcohol dehydrogenases (ADH), the acid phosphatase of S. cerevisiae (PHO5), etc... These control regions may be modified, for example by in vitro site-directed mutagenesis, by introduction of additional control elements or synthetic sequences, or by deletions or substitutions of the original control elements. For example, transcription-regulating elements, the so-called "enhancers" of higher eukaryotes and the "upstream activating sequences" (UAS) of yeasts, originating from other yeast promoters such as the GAL1 and GAL10 promoters of S. cerevisiae or the LAC4 promoter of K. lactis, or even the enhancers of genes recognized by viral transactivators such as the E2 transactivator of papillomavirus, can be used to construct hybrid promoters which enable the growth phase of a yeast culture to be separated from the phase of expression of the gene encoding the hybrid macromolecule. The expression cassette used in the present invention also includes a transcription and translation termination region which is functional in the intended host and which is positioned at the 3' end of the sequence coding for the hybrid macromolecule.

The sequence coding for the hybrid macromolecule will be preceded by a signal sequence which serves to direct the proteins into the secretory pathway. This signal sequence can derive from the natural N-terminal region of albumin (the prepro region), or it can be obtained from yeast genes coding for secreted proteins, such as the sexual pheromones or the killer toxins, or it can derive from any sequence known to increase the secretion of the so-called proteins of pharmaceutical interest, including synthetic sequences and all combinations between a "pre" and a "pro" region.

The junction between the signal sequence and the sequence coding for the hybrid macromolecule to be secreted in mature form corresponds to a site of cleavage of a yeast endoprotease, for example a pair of basic amino acids of the type Lys<sup>2</sup>-Arg<sup>1</sup> or Arg<sup>2</sup>-Arg<sup>1</sup> corresponding to the recognition site of the protease coded by the KEX2 gene of S. cerevisiae or the KEX1 gene of K. lactis (Chen X.J. et al., J. Basic Microbiol. 28 (1988) 211-220; Wésolowski-Louvel M. et al., Yeast 4 (1988) 71-81). In fact, the product of the KEX2 gene of S. cerevisiae cleaves the normal "pro" sequence of albumin in vitro but does not cleave the sequence corresponding to the pro-albumin "Christchurch" in which the pair of basic amino acids is mutated to Arg<sup>2</sup>-Glu<sup>1</sup> (Bathurst I.C. et al., Science 235 (1987) 348-350).

In addition to the expression cassette, the vector will include one or several markers enabling the transformed host to be selected. Such markers include the URA3 gene of yeast, or markers conferring resistance to antibiotics such as geneticin (G418), or any other toxic compound such as certain metal ions. These resistance genes will be placed under the control of the appropriate transcription and translation signals allowing for their expression in a given host.

The assembly consisting of the expression cassette and the selectable marker can be used either to directly transform yeast, or can be inserted into an extrachromosomal replicative vector. In the first case, sequences homologous to regions present on the host chromosomes will be preferably fused to the assembly. These sequences will be positioned on each side of the expression cassette and the selectable marker in order to augment the frequency of integration of the assembly into the host chromosome by in vivo recombination. In the case where the expression cassette is inserted into a replicative vector, the preferred replication system for Kluyveromyces is derived from the plasmid pKD1 initially isolated from K. drosophilarum, while the preferred replication system for Saccharomyces is derived from the 2  $\mu$  plasmid. The expression vector can contain all or part of the above replication systems or can combine elements derived from plasmid pKD1 as well as the 2  $\mu$  plasmid.

When expression in yeasts of the genus Kluyveromyces is desired, the preferred constructions are those which contain the entire sequence of plasmid pKD1. Specifically, preferred constructions are those where the site of insertion of foreign sequences into pKD1 is localized in a 197 bp region lying between the SacI (SstI) site and the MstII site, or alternatively at the SphI site of this plasmid, which permits high stability of the replication systems in the host cells.

The expression plasmids can also take the form of shuttle vectors between a bacterial host such as Escherichia coli and yeasts; in this case an origin of replication and a selectable marker that function in the bacterial host would be required. It is also possible to position restriction sites which are unique on the expression vector such that they flank the bacterial sequences. This allows the bacterial sequences to be eliminated by restriction cleavage, and the vector to be religated prior to transformation of yeast, and this can result in a higher plasmid copy number and enhanced plasmid stability. Certain restriction sites such as 5'-GGCCNNNNNGGCC-3' (SfiI) or 5'-GCGGCCGC-3' (NotI) are particularly convenient since they are very rare in yeasts and are generally absent from an expression plasmid.

The expression vectors constructed as described above are introduced into yeasts according to classical techniques described in the literature. After selection of transformed cells, those cells expressing the hybrid macromolecule of interest are inoculated into an appropriate selective medium and then tested for their capacity to secrete the given protein into the extracellular medium. The harvesting of the protein can be conducted during cell growth for continuous cultures, or at the end of the growth phase for batch cultures. The hybrid proteins which are the subject of the present invention are then purified from the culture supernatant by methods which take into account their molecular characteristics and pharmacological activities.

The present invention also concerns the therapeutic application of the hybrid macromolecules described therein, notably in the treatment and the prevention of AIDS, as well as the cells which are transformed, transfected, or infected by vectors expressing such macromolecules.

The examples which follow as well as the attached figures show some of the characteristics and advantages of the present invention.

### DESCRIPTION OF FIGURES

The diagrams of the plasmids shown in the figures are not drawn to scale, and only the restriction sites important for the constructions are indicated.

**Figure 1:** Oligodeoxynucleotides used to generate the MstII and HindIII-Smal restriction sites, situated respectively upstream and downstream of the V1V2 domains of the CD4 molecule.

**Figure 2:** Nucleotide sequence of the MstII-Smal restriction fragment including the V1 and V2 domains of the CD4 receptor of the HIV-1 virus. The recognition sites for MstII, HindIII and Smal are underlined.

**Figure 3:** Construction of plasmid pXL869 coding for prepro-HSA.

**Figure 4:** Construction of plasmids pYG208 and pYG210.

**Figure 5:** Construction of plasmid pYG11.

**Figure 6:** Construction of plasmid pYG18.

**Figure 7:** Restriction map of plasmid pYG303.

**Figure 8:** Nucleotide sequence of restriction fragment HindIII coding for the protein fusion prepro-HSA-V1V2. Black arrows indicate the end of the "pre" and "pro" regions of HSA. The MstII site is underlined.

**Figure 9:** Restriction map of plasmid pYG306.

**Figure 10:** Construction of plasmid pUC-URA3.

**Figure 11:** Construction of plasmid pCXJ1.

**Figure 12:** Construction of plasmid pk1-PS1535-6.

**Figure 13:** Construction of plasmids pUC-kan1 and pUC-kan202.

**Figure 14:** Construction of plasmid pKan707.

**Figure 15:** Stability curve of plasmid pKan707 in strain MW98-8C under nonselective growth conditions.

**Figure 16:** Construction of plasmid pYG308B.

**Figure 17:** Construction of plasmid pYG221B.

**Figure 18:** Characterization of the material secreted after 4 days in culture by strain MW98-8C transformed by plasmids pYG221B (prepro-HSA) and pYG308B (prepro-HSA-V1V2). **A**, Coomassie staining after electrophoretic migration in an 8.5% polyacrylamide gel. Molecular weight standards (lane 1); supernatant equivalent to 300 µl of the culture transformed by plasmid pYG308B (lane 2); supernatant equivalent to 100 µl of the culture transformed by plasmid pYG221B (lane 3); 500 ng of HSA (lane 4). **B**, immunologic characterization of the secreted material subject to electrophoretic migration in an 8.5% polyacrylamide gel, followed by transfer to a nitrocellulose membrane and utilization of primary antibodies directed against human albumin: 250 ng of HSA standard (lane 1); supernatant equivalent to 100 µl of the culture transformed by plasmid pYG308B (lane 2); supernatant equivalent to 10 µl of the culture transformed by plasmid pYG221B (lane 3). **C**, exactly as in **B** except that polyclonal antibodies directed against the CD4 molecule were used in place of antibodies directed against HSA.

**Figure 19:** Titration of the protein HSA-V1V2 (1 µg/ml) by mouse monoclonal antibody Leu3A (Becton Dickinson, Mountain View, California, U.S.A.) (panel A), by mouse monoclonal antibody OKT4A (Ortho Diagnostic Systems, Raritan, New Jersey, USA) (panel B), or by polyclonal goat anti-HSA coupled to peroxidase (Nordic, Tilburg, Netherlands) (panel C). After using antibodies Leu3A and OKT4A, a secondary rabbit anti-mouse antibody coupled to peroxidase (Nordic) is used. Titration curves for the three primary antibodies used in parts A, B and C were determined by measuring optical density at 405 nm after addition of a chromogenic substrate of peroxidase (ABTS, Fluka, Switzerland). Ordinate: OD at 405 nm, abscissa: dilution factor of the primary antibody used.

**Figure 20:** Assay of protein HSA-V1V2 by the ELISA sandwich method: rabbit polyclonal anti-HSA (Sigma) / HSA-V1V2/mouse monoclonal antibody Leu3A (Becton Dickinson) (panel A), or rabbit polyclonal anti-HSA (Sigma) / HSA-V1V2 / mouse monoclonal antibody OKT4A (Ortho Diagnostic Systems) (panel B). After incubation of each antibody with the HSA-V1V2 protein, a secondary rabbit anti-mouse antibody coupled to peroxidase (Nordic) is added. Titration curves were determined by measuring optical density at 405 nm after addition of the peroxidase substrate ABTS. Ordinate: OD at 405 nm; abscissa: concentration of HSA-V1V2 in µg/ml.

**Figure 21:** Soluble phase inhibition of binding to CD4 by 125 femtomoles of recombinant gp160 protein (Transgène,

Strasbourg, France). Optical density at 492 nm is represented on the ordinate (the value 2 is the saturation optical density of the system) and the quantities of HSA (control), HSA-CD4, and soluble CD4 are shown on the abscissa (picomoles of protein).

5 **Figure 22:** Inhibition of the binding of inactivated HIV-1 virus to cell line CEM13. **A**, preliminary analysis of cell populations sorted as a function of their fluorescence. Ordinate: cell number; abscissa: fluorescence intensity (logarithmic scale). **B**, histogram of cell populations sorted as a function of their fluorescence. Column 1, negative control; Column 2, HIV-1 virus; Column 3, HIV-1 virus preincubated with 116 picomoles of CD4 recombinant protein; Column 4, HIV-1 virus preincubated with 116 picomoles of HSA-V1V2; Column 5, HIV-1 virus preincubated with 116 picomoles of HSA.

10 **Figure 23:** Inhibition of infection in cell culture. Reverse transcriptase activity was measured for 19 days after infection of CEM13 cells. Assays were performed on microtitration plates according to the following protocol: into each well, 10  $\mu$ l of Buffer A (0.5 M KCl, 50 mM DTT, 0.5% Triton X-100), then 40  $\mu$ l of Buffer B (10  $\mu$ l 5 mM EDTA in 0.5 M Tris-HCl pH 7.8, 1  $\mu$ l 0.5 M MgCl<sub>2</sub>, 3  $\mu$ l <sup>3</sup>H-dTTP, 10  $\mu$ l poly rA-oligdT at 5 OD/ml, 16  $\mu$ l H<sub>2</sub>O) were added to 50  $\mu$ l culture supernatant removed at different times after infection. The plates were incubated for 1 hour at 37°C, then 20  $\mu$ l of Buffer C (120 mM Na<sub>4</sub>P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>7</sub> in 60% TCA) was added and incubation was continued for 15 minutes at 4°C. The precipitates formed were passed through Skatron filters using a Skatron cell harvester, and washed with Buffer D (12 mM Na<sub>4</sub>P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>7</sub> in 5% TCA). Filters were dried 15 minutes at 80°C and the radioactivity was measured in a scintillation counter. Three independent samples were tested for each point.

15 **Figure 24:** Changes in the *in vivo* concentrations of CD4, HSA and HSA-CD4 over time.

20 **Figure 25:** Construction of plasmids pYG232, pYG233 and pYG364.

**Figure 26:** Construction of plasmid pYG234.

**Figure 27:** Construction of plasmids pYG332 and pYG347.

25 **Figure 28:** Construction of plasmids pYG362, pYG363 and pYG511.

**Figure 29:** Restriction maps of plasmids pYG371, pYG374 and pYG375.

**Figure 30:** Restriction map of expression plasmid pYG373B.

**Figure 31:** Construction of plasmid pYG537.

30 **Figure 32:** Construction of expression plasmid pYG560.

**Figure 33:** Intracellular expression of hybrid proteins HSA-V1 (plasmid pYG366B; lane b), V1-HSA (plasmid pYG373B; lane c), V1-HSA-V1V2 (plasmid pYG380B; lane d), V1-HSA-V1 (plasmid pYG381B, lane e) and HSA-V1V2 (plasmid pYG308B, lane f) in *K. lactis* strain MW98-8C. Detection was performed by the Western Blot method using polyclonal rabbit serum directed against HSA as primary antibody. 10  $\mu$ g of protein from the insoluble fraction was loaded in each case.

35 **Figure 34:** Introduction of the "Leucine Zipper" of c-jun (BglII-Ahali fragment) in a hybrid protein HSA-CD4.

**Figure 35:** Secretion in strain MW98-8C of truncated HSA variants coupled to the V1V2 domains of the CD4 receptor. Panel 1: Coomassie blue staining. Each lane was loaded with the equivalent of 400  $\mu$ l of culture supernatant from the early stationary phase. Molecular weight markers (lane a), strain transformed by control vector pKan707 (lane b), HSA standard (lane c), strain transformed by expression plasmids pYG308B (HSA<sub>585</sub>-V1V2, lane d), pYG334B (HSA<sub>312</sub>-V1V2, lane e), and pYG335B (HSA<sub>300</sub>-V1V2, lane f).

40 Panel 2: Western Blot detection using rabbit polyclonal anti-HSA. Each lane was loaded with the equivalent of 100  $\mu$ l of culture supernatant from the early stationary phase.

Biotinylated molecular weight markers (Bio-Rad, lane a), strain transformed by control vector pKan707 (lane b), HSA standard (lane f), strain transformed by expression plasmids pYG308B (HSA<sub>585</sub>-V1V2, lane c), pYG334B (HSA<sub>312</sub>-V1V2, lane d), and pYG335B (HSA<sub>300</sub>-V1V2, lane e). Panel 3: Western Blot detection using a rabbit polyclonal anti-CD4 serum; same legend as in Panel 2.

45 **Figure 36:** Panel a: representation of several HindIII (-25)-MstII restriction fragments corresponding to deletions in HSA. Amino acid position (numbered according to mature HSA) is indicated in parentheses. Panel b: detail of the position of the MstII site in one of the deletants (clone YP63, linker insertion at amino acid 495).

50 **Figure 37:** Examples of the hinge regions between the HSA and CD4 moieties. The amino acid pairs that are potential targets of endoproteases involved in the secretory pathway are boxed.

Panel 1: hinge region of protein HSA<sub>585</sub>-CD4. Panel 2: hinge region of HSA<sub>Ba131</sub>-CD4 proteins obtained by Bal31 deletion of the C-terminal portion of HSA (in this representation the Lys-Lys pairs situated at the beginning of the CD4 moiety have been modified by site-directed mutagenesis as exemplified in E. 13.2.).

55 Panel 3: hinge region obtained by insertion of a polypeptide (shown here a fragment of troponin C), obtained after site-directed mutagenesis using oligodeoxynucleotide Sq1445. Panel 4: general structure

of the hinge region between the HSA and CD4 moieties.

**Figure 38:** Panel 1: structure of the in-frame fusion between the prepro region of HSA and the CD4 receptor, present notably in expression plasmids pYG373B, pYG380B, pYG381B and pYG560. Panel 1a: the amino acid pairs that are potential targets of endoproteases involved in the secretory pathway are boxed.

5 Panel 1b: These amino acid pairs can be modified by mutating the second lysine of each pair such that the pair is no longer a target for such endoproteases. Panel 2: Examples of hinge regions between the CD4 and HSA moieties present notably in hybrid proteins V1-HSA (panel 2a) or V1V2-HSA (panels 2b and 2c). Panel 3: general structure of the hinge region between the CD4 and HSA moieties.

10 **EXAMPLES**

**GENERAL CLONING TECHNIQUES.**

15 The classical methods of molecular biology such as preparative extractions of plasmid DNA, the centrifugation of plasmid DNA in cesium chloride gradients, agarose and polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis, the purification of DNA fragments by electroelution, the extraction of proteins by phenol or phenol/chloroform, the precipitation of DNA in the presence of salt by ethanol or isopropanol, transformation of *Escherichia coli* etc... have been abundantly described in the literature (Maniatis T. et al., "Molecular Cloning, a Laboratory Manual", Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, Cold Spring Harbor, N.Y., 1982; Ausubel F.M. et al. (eds), "Current Protocols in Molecular Biology", John Wiley & Sons, New York, 1987), and will not be reiterated here.

20 - Restriction enzymes are furnished by New England Biolabs (Biolabs), Bethesda Research Laboratories (BRL) or Amersham and are used according to the recommendations of the manufacturer.

Plasmids pBR322, pUC8, pUC19 and the phages M13mp8 and M13mp18 are of commercial origin (Bethesda Research Laboratories).

25 For ligations, the DNA fragments are separated by size on agarose (generally 0.8%) or polyacrylamide (generally 10%) gels, purified by electroelution, extracted with phenol or phenol/chloroform, precipitated with ethanol and then incubated in the presence of T4 DNA ligase (Biolabs) according to the recommendations of the manufacturer.

30 Filling in of 5' ends is carried out using the Klenow fragment of *E. coli* DNA polymerase I (Biolabs) according to manufacturer recommendations. Destruction of 3' protruding termini is performed in the presence of T4 DNA polymerase (Biolabs) as recommended by the manufacturer. Digestion of 5' protruding ends is accomplished by limited treatment with S1 nuclease.

35 *In vitro* site-directed mutagenesis is performed according to the method developed by Taylor et al. (Nucleic Acids Res. 13 (1985) 8749-8764) using the kit distributed by Amersham.

Enzymatic amplification of DNA fragments by the PCR technique (Polymerase-catalyzed Chain Reaction, Saiki

35 R.K. et al., Science 230 (1985) 1350-1354; Mullis K.B. and Faloona F.A., Meth. Enzym. 155 (1987) 335-350) is carried out on a "DNA thermal cycler" (Perkin Elmer Cetus) according to manufacturer specifications.

40 Nucleotide sequencing is performed according to the method developed by Sanger et al. (Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA, 74 (1977) 5463-5467), using the Amersham kit.

Transformation of *K. lactis* with foreign DNA as well as the purification of plasmid DNA from *K. lactis* are described in the text.

45 Unless indicated otherwise, the bacterial strains used are *E. coli* MC1060 (*lacI*POZYA, X74, *galU*, *galK*, *strA*), or *E. coli* TG1 (*lac*, *proA*, B, *supE*, *thi*, *hsdD5* / *F'traD36*, *proA*<sup>+</sup>*B*<sup>+</sup>, *lacI*<sup>q</sup>, *lacZ*, M15).

50 All yeast strains used are members of the family of budding yeasts and in particular of the genus *Kluyveromyces*. Examples of these yeasts are given in the text. The *K. lactis* strain MW98-8C (*g*, *uraA*, *arg*, *lys*, *K*<sup>+</sup>, pKD1<sup>0</sup>) was often used; a sample of this strain has been deposited on September 16, 1988 at the Centraalbureau voor Schimmelculturen (CBS) at Baarn (Netherlands) under the registration number CBS 579.88.

**EXAMPLE 1: CONSTRUCTION OF A MstII/HindIII-SmaI RESTRICTION FRAGMENT CARRYING THE V1V2 DOMAINS OF THE RECEPTOR OF THE HIV-1 VIRUS.**

55 An MstII-SmaI restriction fragment corresponding to the V1V2 domains (where V1 and V2 designate the first two N-terminal domains of the CD4 molecule) was generated by the technique of enzymatic amplification (PCR) according to the following strategy: the lymphoblastic cell line CEM13, which expresses high quantities of CD4 receptor, was used as the source of messenger RNAs coding for the receptor. Total RNA was first purified from 3 x 10<sup>8</sup> cells of this line by extraction with guanidium thiocyanate as originally described by Cathala et al. (DNA 4 (1983) 329-335); 50 µg of RNA prepared in this manner then served as matrix for the synthesis of complementary DNA (cDNA) using the Amersham kit and the oligodeoxynucleotide Xol27 as primer (Figure 1). The resulting cDNA was subjected to 30 cycles of enzymatic amplification by the PCR technique at a hybridization temperature of 62°C, using 1 µg each of oligode-

oxynucleotides Xol26 and Xol27 as primer, as shown in Figure 1. The amplified fragment was directly cloned into the Smal site of M13mp8 which had been previously dephosphorylated, to generate vector M13/CD4. This vector is an intermediate construction containing the restriction fragment MstII-Smal which itself is the source of the MstII-HindIII fragment carrying the V1V2 domains of the CD4 molecule; the nucleotide sequence of this fragment is shown in Figure 2.

5

#### EXAMPLE 2: CONSTRUCTION OF THE EXPRESSION CASSETTE FOR PREPRO-HSA.

##### E.2.1. Construction of plasmid pXL869 coding for prepro-HSA.

10

The Ndel site of plasmid pXL322 (Latta M. et al., Bio/Technology 5 (1987) 1309-1314) including the ATG translation initiation codon of prepro-HSA was changed to a HindIII site by oligodeoxynucleotide-directed mutagenesis using the following strategy: the HindIII-BglII fragment of pXL322 containing the 5' extremity of the prepro-HSA gene was cloned into vector M13mp18 and mutagenized with oligodeoxynucleotide 5'-ATCTAAGGAAATACAAGCTT-**ATGAAGTGGGT**-3' (the HindIII site is underlined and the ATG codon of prepro-HSA is shown in bold type); the phage obtained after this mutagenesis step is plasmid pXL855 whose restriction map is shown in Figure 3. After verification of the nucleotide sequence, the complete coding sequence for prepro-HSA was reconstituted by ligation of the HindIII-PvuII fragment derived from the replicative form of the mutagenized phage and coding for the N-terminal region of prepro-HSA, with the PvuII-HindIII fragment of plasmid pXL322 containing the C-terminal of HSA, thereby generating a HindIII fragment coding the entire prepro-HSA gene. This HindIII fragment, which also contains a 61 bp nontranslated region at its 3' extremity, was cloned into the corresponding site of plasmid pUC8 to generate plasmid pXL869 (Figure 3).

15

The Ndel site of plasmid pXL322 (Latta M. et al., Bio/Technology 5 (1987) 1309-1314) including the ATG translation initiation codon of prepro-HSA was changed to a HindIII site by oligodeoxynucleotide-directed mutagenesis using the following strategy: the HindIII-BglII fragment of pXL322 containing the 5' extremity of the prepro-HSA gene was cloned into vector M13mp18 and mutagenized with oligodeoxynucleotide 5'-ATCTAAGGAAATACAAGCTT-**ATGAAGTGGGT**-3' (the HindIII site is underlined and the ATG codon of prepro-HSA is shown in bold type); the phage obtained after this mutagenesis step is plasmid pXL855 whose restriction map is shown in Figure 3. After verification of the nucleotide sequence, the complete coding sequence for prepro-HSA was reconstituted by ligation of the HindIII-PvuII fragment derived from the replicative form of the mutagenized phage and coding for the N-terminal region of prepro-HSA, with the PvuII-HindIII fragment of plasmid pXL322 containing the C-terminal of HSA, thereby generating a HindIII fragment coding the entire prepro-HSA gene. This HindIII fragment, which also contains a 61 bp nontranslated region at its 3' extremity, was cloned into the corresponding site of plasmid pUC8 to generate plasmid pXL869 (Figure 3).

20

##### E.2.2. Construction of expression cassettes for prepro-HSA expressed under the control of the PGK promoter of S. cerevisiae.

25

Plasmid pYG12 contains a 1.9 kb Sall-BamHI restriction fragment carrying the promoter region (1.5 kb) and terminator region (0.4 kb) of the PGK gene of S. cerevisiae (Figure 4). This fragment is derived from a genomic HindIII fragment (Mellor J. et al., Gene 24 (1983) 1-14) from which a 1.2 kb fragment corresponding to the structural gene has been deleted, comprising a region between the ATG translation initiation codon and the BglII site situated 30 codons upstream of the TAA translation termination codon. The HindIII sites flanking the 1.9 kb fragment were then destroyed using synthetic oligodeoxynucleotides and replaced by a Sall and a BamHI site respectively upstream of the promoter region and downstream of the transcription terminator of the PGK gene. A unique HindIII site was then introduced by site-directed mutagenesis at the junction of the promoter and terminator regions; the sequence flanking this unique HindIII site (shown in bold letters) is as follows:

35

5'-TAAAAAACAAAGATCCCCAAGCTTGGGATCTCCATGTCTCACT-3'

40

Plasmid pYG208 is an intermediate construction generated by insertion of the synthetic adaptor BaMHI / Sall/ BamHI (5'-GATCCGTCGACG-3') into the unique BamHI site of plasmid pYG12; plasmid pYG208 thereby allows the removal of the promoter and terminator of the PGK gene of S. cerevisiae in the form of a Sall restriction fragment (Figure 4).

45

The HindIII fragment coding for prepro-HSA was purified from plasmid pXL869 by electroelution and cloned in the "proper" orientation (defined as the orientation which places the N-terminal of the albumin prepro region just downstream of the PGK promoter) into the HindIII site of plasmid pYG208 to generate plasmid pYG210. As indicated in Figure 4, plasmid pYG210 is the source of a Sall restriction fragment carrying the expression cassette (PGK promoter / prepro-HSA / PGK terminator).

50

##### E.2.3. Optimization of the expression cassette.

55

The nucleotide sequence located immediately upstream of the ATG translation initiation codon of highly expressed genes possesses structural characteristics compatible with such high levels of expression (Kozak M., Microbiol. Rev. 47(1983) 1-45; Hamilton R. et al., Nucl. Acid Res. 15 (1987) 3581-3593). The introduction of a HindIII site by site-directed mutagenesis at position -25 (relative to the ATG initiation codon) of the PGK promoter of S. cerevisiae is described in European patent application EP N° 89 10480.

In addition, the utilization of oligodeoxynucleotides Sq451 and Sq452 which form a HindIII-BStII adaptor is described in the same document and permits the generation of a HindIII restriction fragment composed of the 21 nucleotides preceding the ATG initiator codon of the PGK gene, followed by the gene coding for prepro-HSA. The nucleotide

sequence preceding the ATG codon of such an expression cassette is as follows (the nucleotide sequence present in the PGK promoter of S. cerevisiae is underlined):

5 5'-AAGCTTACAACAAATATAAAAACAATG -3'.

**EXAMPLE 3: IN-FRAME FUSION OF PREPRO-HSA WITH THE V1V2 DOMAINS OF THE CD4 RECEPTOR**

The cloning strategy used for the in-frame construction of the hybrid molecule prepro-HSA-V1V2 is illustrated in Figures 5 through 9. Plasmid pYG11 is an intermediate construction in which the HindIII fragment coding for prepro-HSA has been purified from plasmid pXL869 and cloned into the HindIII site of plasmid pYG12 (Figure 5). The construction of plasmid pYG18 is represented in Figure 6; this plasmid corresponds to the Sall-BamHI fragment coding for the expression cassette (P G K promoter/prepro-HSA/PGK terminator) purified from plasmid pYG11 and cloned into the corresponding sites of plasmid pIC20R (Marsh F. et al., Gene 32 (1984) 481-485).

15 The MstII-SmaI restriction fragment carrying the V1V2 domains of the CD4 receptor, obtained as described in Example 1, was cloned into plasmid pYG18 cut by the same enzymes to generate recombinant plasmid pYG303 whose restriction map is shown in Figure 7. Plasmid pYG303 therefore carries a HindIII fragment corresponding to the in-frame fusion of the entire prepro-HSA gene followed by the V1V2 domains of the CD4 receptor; Figure 8 shows the nucleotide sequence of this fragment. This fragment was then cloned into the HindIII site of plasmid pYG208; insertion 20 of this fragment, which codes for the gene prepro-HSA-V1V2, in the proper orientation into plasmid pYG208, generates plasmid pYG306 whose restriction map is shown in Figure 9. Plasmid pYG306 carries a Sall restriction fragment containing the expression cassette (PGK promoter / prepro-HSA-V1V2 / PGK terminator).

**EXAMPLE 4: CONSTRUCTION OF STABLE CLONING VECTORS DERIVED FROM REPLICON pKD1.**

25 **E.4.1. Isolation and purification of plasmid pKD1.**

30 Plasmid pKD1 was purified from K. drosophilarum strain UCD 51-130 (U.C.D. collection, University of California, Davis, CA 95616) according to the following protocol: a 1 liter culture in YPD medium (1% yeast extract, 2% Bacto-peptone, 2% glucose) was centrifuged, washed, and resuspended in a solution of 1.2 M sorbitol, and cells were transformed into spheroplasts in the presence of zymolyase (300 µg/ml), 25 mM EDTA, 50 mM phosphate and β-mercaptoethanol (1 µg/ml). After washing in a solution of 1.2 M sorbitol, spheroplasts corresponding to 250 ml of the original culture were resuspended in 2.5 ml of 1.2 M sorbitol to which was added the same volume of buffer (25 mM Tris-HCl, pH 8.0; 50 mM glucose; 10 mM EDTA). The following steps correspond to the alkaline lysis protocol already described (Birnboim H.C. and Doly J.C., Nucleic Acids Res. 7 (1979) 1513-1523). DNA was purified by isopycnic centrifugation 35 in a cesium chloride gradient.

**E.4.2. Construction of plasmid pCXJ1.**

40 The intermediate construction pUC-URA3 (Figure 10) consists of a 1.1 kb fragment containing the URA3 gene of S. cerevisiae inserted in the unique NarI site of plasmid pUC19 as follows: the HindIII fragment coding for the URA3 gene was purified by HindIII digestion of plasmid pG63 (Gerbaud C. et al., Curr. Genet. 3 (1981) 173-180); the fragment was treated with the Klenow fragment of E. coli DNA polymerase I to generate blunt ends, purified by electroelution, and inserted into plasmid pUC19 which had been cleaved by NarI and treated with the Klenow fragment of E. coli DNA polymerase I.

45 Plasmid pCXJ1 (Figure 11) contains the complete sequence of plasmid pKD1 inserted into the unique AatII site of pUC-URA3 as follows: plasmid pKD1 was linearized by cleavage with EcoRI, then blunt-ended with the Klenow fragment of E. coli DNA polymerase I. This fragment was then ligated with plasmid pUC-URA3 which had been cut by AatII and blunt-ended with T4 DNA polymerase: cloning of a blunt-ended EcoRI fragment into a blunt-ended AatII site reconstitutes two EcoRI sites. It should be noted that linearization of plasmid pKD1 at the EcoRI site does not inactivate any of the genes necessary for plasmid stability and copy number, since the EcoRI site is located outside of genes A, B, and C, and outside of the inverted repeats of pKD1. In fact, plasmid pCXJ1 transforms K. lactis uraA cir<sup>o</sup> at high frequency, is amplified to 70-100 copies per cell, and is maintained in a stable fashion in the absence of selection pressure. Due to the origin of replication carried by plasmid pUC-URA3, plasmid pCXJ1 can also replicate in E. coli, and thus constitutes a particularly useful shuttle vector between E. coli and several yeasts of the genus Kluyveromyces, in particular K. lactis, K. fragilis and K. drosophilarum. However, the utilization of pCXJ1 as a vector for the transformation of Kluyveromyces remains limited to those auxotrophic strains carrying a chromosomal uraA mutation.

**E.4.3. Construction of an in-frame fusion between ORF1 of the killer plasmid of K. lactis and the product of the bacterial gene aph[3']-I of transposon Tn903.**

Plasmid pKan707 was constructed as a vector to be used in wild type yeasts. This plasmid was generated by insertion of the aph[3']-I gene of bacterial transposon Tn903 coding for 3'-aminoglycoside phosphotransferase (APH), expressed under control of a yeast promoter, into the Sall of plasmid pCXJ1.

In the first step, the bacterial transcription signals of the aph[3']-I gene were replaced by the  $P_{k1}$  promoter isolated from the killer plasmid  $k1$  of K. lactis as follows: the 1.5 kb Scal-PstI fragment of plasmid  $k1$  was cloned into the corresponding sites of vector pBR322, to generate plasmid pk1-PS1535-6 (Figure 12); this 1.5 kb fragment contains the 5' region of the first open reading frame (ORF1) carried by plasmid  $k1$  as well as approximately 220 bp upstream (Sor F. and Fukuhara H., Curr. Genet. 9 (1985) 147-155). The purified Scal-PstI fragment probably contains the entire promoter region of ORF1, since the Scal site is situated only 22 nucleotides from the extremity of plasmid  $k1$  (Sor F. and al., Nucl. Acids. Res. 11 (1983) 5037-5044). Digestion of pk1-PS1535-6 by Ddel generates a 266 bp fragment containing 17 bp from pBR322 at the extremity close to the Scal site, and the first 11 codons of ORF1 at the other extremity.

Plasmid pUC-kan1 is an intermediate construction obtained by insertion of the 1.25 kb EcoRI fragment carrying the aph[3']-I gene of Tn903 (Kanamycin Resistance Gene Block TM, Pharmacia), into the EcoRI site of plasmid pUC19 (Figure 13). The 266 bp Ddel fragment from plasmid pk1-PS1535-6 was treated with the Klenow fragment of E. coli DNA polymerase I, purified by electroelution on a polyacrylamide gel, then inserted into the XbaI site of plasmid pUC-kan1 treated by S1 nuclease to generate blunt ends; this generated plasmid pUC-kan202 (Figure 13). This cloning strategy creates an in-frame fusion of the ORF1 gene of plasmid  $k1$  with the N-terminal extremity of the aph[3']-I gene of Tn903: in the fusion, the first 11 amino acids of the aph[3']-I gene product have been replaced by the first 11 amino acids of ORF1, and the expression of this hybrid gene is under the control of a K. lactis promoter. The nucleotide sequence surrounding the initiation codon of the fusion protein ORF1-APH is as follows (codons originating from ORF1 are underlined, and the first codons from APH are italicized):

5' **TTACATTATTAATTAAAA** ATG GAT TTC AAA GAT AAG  
**GCT TTA AAT GAT CTA AGG CCG CGA TTA AAT TCC AAC ... - 3'**

**E.4.4. Construction and stability of plasmid pKan707 in K. lactis.**

Plasmid pCXJ1 was cleaved by HindIII, treated with the Klenow fragment of E. coli DNA polymerase I, then ligated with the 1.2 kb Scal-HincII fragment coding for the ORF1-APH fusion expressed under control of the K. lactis  $P_{k1}$  promoter deriving from plasmid pUC-Kan202. The resulting plasmid (pKan707, Figure 14) confers very high levels of resistance to G418 (Geneticin, GIBCO, Grand Island, N.Y.) in strains of K. lactis ( $> 2.5$  g/l), is able to transform K. lactis strains  $cir^o$  due to the functional integrity of replicon pKD1, can be amplified to 70-100 copies per cell, and can be stably maintained in the absence of selection pressure (Figure 15). This high stability, coupled with the presence of a dominant marker permitting the transformation of industrial strains of Kluyveromyces, make plasmid pKan707 a high performance vector for the expression of proteins in yeasts of the genus Kluyveromyces.

**EXAMPLE 5: CONSTRUCTION OF EXPRESSION PLASMIDS pYG221B (PREPRO-HSA) AND pYG308B (PREPRO-HSA-V1V2).**

The Sall restriction fragment coding for the hybrid protein prepro-HSA-V1V2 expressed under control of the PGK promoter of S. cerevisiae was purified by electroporation from plasmid pYG306 cut by the corresponding enzyme, and then cloned into the Sall site of plasmid pKan707, to generate plasmids pYG308A and pYG308B which are distinguished only by the orientation of the Sall fragment in relation to the vector pKan707. A restriction map of plasmid pYG308B is shown in Figure 16.

Plasmid pYG221B is a control construction coding for prepro-HSA alone; this plasmid was constructed as for plasmid pYG308B (prepro-HSA-V1V2): the Sall fragment coding for prepro-HSA expressed under control of the PGK promoter was purified from plasmid pYG221B and cloned into the Sall site of plasmid pKan707 to generate plasmid pYG221B (Figure 17). Plasmids pYG221B (prepro-HSA) and pYG308B (prepro-HSA-V1V2) possess the same orientation of the Sall expression cassettes in relation to the vector and are strictly isogenic except for the difference of the MstII-HindIII fragment located immediately upstream of the PGK terminator. The nucleotide sequence of the MstII-HindIII fragment in plasmid pYG221B (prepro-HSA) is as follows (the translation stop codon for the prepro-HSA gene is in bold type):

5'-CCTTAGGCTTATAACATCACATTAAAAGCATCTCAGCCTA  
CCATGAGAATAAGAGAAAGAAAATGAAGATCAAAAGCTT-3'

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The nucleotide sequence of the MstII-HindIII fragment of plasmid pYG308B is included in the sequence of the MstII-SmaI fragment shown in Figure 2.

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Transformation of yeasts of the genus Kluyveromyces and in particular K. lactis strain MW98-8C, was performed by treating whole cells with lithium acetate (Ito H. et al., J. Bacteriol. 153 (1983) 163-168), adapted as follows. Cells were grown in shaker flasks in 50 ml of YPD medium at 28°C, until reaching an optical density of 0.6-0.8, at which time they were harvested by low speed centrifugation, washed in sterile TE (10 mM Tris HCl pH 7.4; 1 mM EDTA), resuspended in 3-4 ml of lithium acetate (0.1 M in TE) to give a cell density of 2 x 10<sup>8</sup> cells/ml, then incubated 1 hour at 30°C with moderate agitation. Aliquots of 0.1 ml of the resulting suspension of competent cells were incubated 1 hour at 30°C in the presence of DNA and polyethylene glycol (PEG<sub>4000</sub>, Sigma) at a final concentration of 35%. After a 5 minute thermal shock at 42°C, cells were washed twice, resuspended in 0.2 ml sterile water, and incubated 16 hours at 28°C in 2 ml YPD to allow for phenotypic expression of the ORF1-APH fusion protein expressed under control of promoter P<sub>K1</sub>; 200 µl of the resulting cell suspension were spread on YPD selective plates (G418, 200 µg/ml). Plates were incubated at 28°C and transformants appeared after 2 to 3 days growth.

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#### EXAMPLE 7: SECRETION OF ALBUMIN AND ITS VARIANTS BY YEASTS OF THE GENUS KLUYVEROMYCES.

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After selection on rich medium supplemented with G418, recombinant clones were tested for their capacity to secrete the mature form of albumin or the hybrid protein HSA-V1V2. Certain clones corresponding to strain MW98-8C transformed by plasmids pYG221B (prepro-HSA) or pYG308B (prepro-HSA-V1V2) were incubated in selective liquid rich medium at 28°C. Culture supernatants were prepared by centrifugation when cells reached stationary phase, then concentrated by precipitation with 60% ethanol for 30 minutes at 20°C. Supernatants were tested after electrophoresis through 8.5% polyacrylamide gels, either by direct Coomassie blue staining of the gel (Figure 18, panel A), or by immunoblotting using as primary antibody a rabbit polyclonal anti-HSA serum (Figure 18, panel B) or a rabbit polyclonal anti-CD4 serum (Figure 18, panel C). For immunoblot experiments, the nitrocellulose filter was first incubated in the presence of specific rabbit antibodies, then washed several times, incubated with a biotinylated goat anti-rabbit Ig's serum, then incubated in the presence of an avidin-peroxidase complex using the "ABC" kit distributed by Vectastain (Biosys S.A., Compiègne, France). The immunologic reaction was then revealed by addition of diamino-3,3' benzidine tetrachlorhydrate (Prolabo) in the presence of oxygenated water, according to the kit recommendations. The results shown in Figure 18 demonstrate that the hybrid protein HSA-V1V2 is recognized by both the anti-HSA antibodies and the anti-CD4 antibodies, whereas HSA is only recognized by the anti-HSA antibodies.

#### EXAMPLE 8: PURIFICATION AND MOLECULAR CHARACTERIZATION OF SECRETED PRODUCTS.

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After ethanol precipitation of the culture supernatants corresponding to the K. lactis strain MW98-8C transformed by plasmids pYG221B (prepro-HSA) and pYG308B (prepro-HSA-V1V2), the pellet was resolubilized in a 50 mM Tris-HCl buffer, pH 8.0. The HSA-CD4 and HSA proteins were purified by affinity chromatography on Trisacryl-Blue (IBF). An additional purification by ion exchange chromatography can be performed if necessary. After elution, protein-containing fractions were combined, dialyzed against water and lyophilized before being characterized. Sequencing (Applied Biosystem) of the hybrid protein secreted by K. lactis strain MW98-8C revealed the expected N-terminal sequence of albumin (Asp-Ala-His...), demonstrating the proper maturation of the protein.

The isoelectric point was determined by isoelectrofocalization to be 5.5 for the HSA-V1V2 protein and 4.8 for HSA.

The HSA-V1V2 protein is recognized by the monoclonal mouse antibodies OKT4A and Leu3A directed against human CD4, as well as by a polyclonal anti-HSA serum (Figure 19), and can be assayed by the ELISA method (Enzyme-Linked Immuno-Sorbent Assay, Figure 20). The substrate for the peroxidase used in these two experiments is 2-2'-azino-bis (3-ethylbenzothiazoline-6-sulfonic acid) diammonium salt (ABTS) (Fluka, Switzerland).

#### EXAMPLE 9: CHARACTERIZATION OF THE ANTI-VIRAL PROPERTIES OF THE HSA-CD4 VARIANTS.

The proteins corresponding to albumin (negative control) and to the HSA-V1V2 fusion purified from culture supernatants of K. lactis strain MW98-8C transformed respectively by plasmids pYG221B (prepro-HSA) and pYG308B (pre-

pro-HSA-V1V2) as in examples 7 and 8, were tested in vitro for antiviral activity and compared to the entire soluble CD4 molecule purified from CHO (Chinese Hamster Ovary) cells. Protein concentrations are expressed in molarity and were determined both by methods to measure proteins in solution as well as by comparison of successive dilutions of each protein after electrophoretic migration in polyacrylamide gels followed by silver nitrate staining.

5 Figure 21 shows that the HSA-V1V2 fusion is able to inhibit in vitro the binding of the viral glycoprotein gp160 (uncleaved precursor of gp120) to the CD4 receptor in soluble phase. In this experiment, the ELISA plates were covered with purified recombinant CD4 and incubated with recombinant gp160 (125 femtomoles) and having been preincubated with varying quantities of CD4, albumin, or the hybrid protein HSA-V1V2. The residual binding of gp160 to CD4 was then revealed by the successive addition of mouse monoclonal anti-gp160 (110.4), followed by the binding of a goat serum linked to peroxidase and directed against mouse antibodies. After addition of a chromogenic substrate (orthophenyldialanine) in the presence of oxygenated water, optical density was measured at 492 nm. The results reported in Figure 21 demonstrate that the hybrid protein HSA-V1V2 is able to inhibit the binding of gp160 to CD4 in soluble phase, in a manner indistinguishable from the positive control corresponding to the entire CD4 molecule. In contrast, the albumin molecule is almost completely inactive in this regard. This experiment indicates that the inhibition by the hybrid protein is due to the presence of the V1V2 domains in a conformation and accessibility similar to the complete CD4 receptor.

10 Figure 22 shows that the HSA-V1V2 hybrid is able to inhibit the in vitro binding of the HIV-1 virus to cells expressing the CD4 receptor on their membranes. In this experiment, a cell line that expresses high quantities of CD4 receptor (lymphoblastic cell line CEM13) was incubated with 2 µg of heat-inactivated viral particles that had been preincubated with 116 picomoles of either HSA-V1V2 (10.7 µg), HSA (7.5 µg), or recombinant entire CD4 purified from CHO cells (5 µg). The binding of the inactivated viral particles to cell membranes was revealed by successive incubations of a mouse monoclonal anti-gp120 antibody and a goat anti-mouse IgG serum marked with phycoerythrin. The negative control corresponds to cell line CEM13 incubated successively with these two antibodies. Fluorescence was measured with a cell sorter (Figure 22, panel A) and the results are presented in the form of a histogram (Figure 22, panel B). 15 This experiment shows that the HSA-V1V2 protein is able to inhibit the binding of the HIV-1 virus to CEM13 cells almost completely. Furthermore, this inhibition is slightly higher than that of the complete CD4 molecule; this can be explained by the fact that albumin, known for its adhesive properties, is able to inhibit the binding of the virus to the target cells in a nonspecific manner and with a low efficiency.

20 The HSA-CD4 protein is also able to inhibit viral infection of permissive cells in cell culture. This inhibition was measured either by assaying the production of viral antigens (viral p24) using the kit ELAVIA-AG1 (Diagnostics Pasteur), or the kit p24-ELISA (Dupont), or by measuring the reverse transcriptase activity by the technique of Schwartz et al. (Aids Research and Human Retroviruses 4 (1988) 441-448). The experimental protocol was as follows: the product of interest at a final concentration X was first preincubated with supernatants of CEM13 cells infected by the isolate LAV-Bru1 of virus HIV-1 (dilution 1/250, 1/2500 and 1/25000) in a total volume of 1 ml of culture medium (RPMI 1640 25 containing 10% fetal calf serum, 1% L-glutamine and 1% penicillin-streptomycin-neomycin). The mixture was then transferred onto a pellet of  $5 \times 10^5$  permissive cells (e.g. MT2, CEM13, or H9) and incubated in tubes for 2 hours at 37°C for infection to occur. The infection could also be carried out on microtitration plates with  $10^4$  cells per well in 100 µl of complete medium. A volume of 100 µl of the virus that had been preincubated with the product to be tested was then added, followed by 50 µl of the product at 5X concentration. Cells were then washed twice with 5 ml RPMI 1640 and resuspended in culture medium at a density of  $2.5 \times 10^5$  cells/ml. 30 100 µl of this suspension was then aliquoted into each well of microtitration plates which already contain 100 µl of the product at 2X concentration, and the plates were incubated at 37°C in a humid atmosphere containing 5% CO<sub>2</sub>. At different days (D3-D4-D6-D8-D10-D12-D14-D16-D19-D21 and D25), 100 µl of supernatant was removed and the p24 viral production as well as the reverse transcriptase activity were assayed. Cells were then resuspended and distributed onto microtitration plates for assays of cell viability (MTT) 35 as described above. To the 50 µl remaining on the original plates, 200 µl of culture medium containing the product to be tested at concentration X were added, and infection was allowed to progress until the next sampling. For the cell viability test, 10 µl of MTT at 5 mg/ml filtered on 0.2 µm filters was added to each well and plates were incubated 4 hours at 37°C in a humid atmosphere containing 5% CO<sub>2</sub>. Then to each well was added 150 µl of an isopropanol/0.04 N HCl mixture, and the Formazan crystals were resuspended. Optical density from 520 to 570 nm was measured on a Titertek plate reader; this measure reflects cell viability (Schwartz et al., Aids Research and Human Retroviruses 4 (1988) 441-448).

40 Figure 23 shows an example of inhibition of infectivity in cell culture (cell line CEM13) as measured by reverse transcriptase activity. This demonstrates that the HSA-V1V2 hybrid is able to reduce the infectivity of the HIV-1 virus to the same extent as the soluble CD4 molecule.

#### 55 EXAMPLE 10: STABILITY OF THE HYBRID PROTEINS IN VIVO

It has been shown that first generation soluble CD4 possesses a half-life of 20 minutes in rabbits (Capon D.J. et

al.; *Nature* **337** (1989) 525-531). We have therefore compared the half-life in rabbits of the HSA-CD4 hybrid to soluble CD4 and to recombinant HSA produced in yeast and purified in the same manner as HSA-CD4. In these experiments, at least 2 male NZW(Hy/Cr) rabbits weighing 2.5-2.8 kg were used for each product. Rabbits were kept in a room maintained at a temperature of 18.5-20.5°C and a humidity of 45-65%, with 13 hours light/day. Each product was administered in a single injection lasting 10 seconds in the marginal vein of the ear. The same molar quantity of each product was injected: 250 µg of CD4 per rabbit, 400 µg of HSA per rabbit, or 500 µg of HSA-CD4 per rabbit, in 1 ml physiologic serum. Three to four ml blood samples were taken, mixed with lithium heparinate and centrifuged 15 min at 3500 rpm; samples were then divided into three aliquots, rapidly frozen at -20°C, then assayed by an ELISA method. Blood samples from rabbits injected with CD4 were taken before injection ( $T_0$ ), then 5 min, 10 min, 20 min, 30 min, 1 h, 2 h, 4 h and 8 h after injection. Blood samples from rabbits injected with HSA-CD4 or HSA were taken at  $T_0$ , 30 min, 1 h, 2 h, 4 h, 8 h, 24 h, 32 h, 48 h, 56 h, 72 h, 80 h, 96 h, 104 h and 168 h after injection.

Assays of the CD4 molecule were carried out on Dynatech M129B microtitration plates previously covered with the HSA-CD4 hybrid protein. Increasing concentrations of CD4 or the samples to be assayed were then added in the presence of the mouse monoclonal antibody OKT4A (Ortho-Diagnostic, dilution 1/1000); after incubation and washing of the plates, the residual binding of antibody OKT4A was revealed by addition of antibodies coupled to peroxidase (Nordic, dilution 1/1000) and directed against mouse IgG. Measurements were made at OD 405 nm in the presence of the peroxidase substrate ABTS (Fluka).

Assays of recombinant HSA were carried out on Dynatech M129B microtitration plates previously covered with anti-HSA serum (Sigma Ref. A0659, dilution 1/1000); increasing concentrations of HSA or samples to be measured were then added, followed by addition of anti-HSA serum coupled to peroxidase (Nordic, dilution 1/1000). Measurements were made at OD 405 nm as above.

Two different assays were done for the HSA-CD4 hybrid: either the assay for the HSA moiety alone, using the same methods as for recombinant HSA, or an assay for the HSA moiety coupled with an assay for the CD4 moiety. In the latter case, microtitration plates were covered first with anti-HSA serum (Sigma Ref. A0659, dilution 1/1000), then incubated with the samples to be assayed. The mouse monoclonal antibody Leu3A directed against CD4 was then added, followed by antibodies coupled to peroxidase (Nordic, dilution 1/1000) and directed against mouse antibodies. Measurements were made at 405 nm as described above.

The curves for each of these assays are given in Figure 24. Interpretation of these results allows the evaluation of the pharmacokinetic characteristics of each product in the rabbit. The half-lives measured for each product are as follows:

CD4	0.25 ± 0.1 h
HSA	47 ± 6 h
HSA-CD4	34 ± 4 h

These results underscore the following points:

- 1/ The coupling of CD4 to albumin allows a significant increase in the stability of CD4 in the organism since the half-life of elimination is increased 140-fold.
- 2/ The half-life of elimination of the HSA-CD4 hybrid is comparable to that of HSA.
- 3/ The clearance of CD4 is approximately 3 ml/min/kg while that of HSA and HSA-CD4 is approximately 0.02 ml/min/kg.
- 4/ The CD4 moiety of the HSA-CD4 hybrid apparently retains an active conformation (i.e. able to bind gp120) since the assay for CD4 involves the Leu3A monoclonal antibody which recognizes an epitope close to the binding site of gp120 (Sattentau Q.J. et al., *Science* **234** (1986) 1120-1123; Peterson A. and Seed B., *Cell* **54** (1988) 65-72). Furthermore, the two independent assay methods for the HSA-CD4 hybrid gave essentially the same result, which suggests that the CD4 moiety is not preferentially degraded *in vivo*.

It is noteworthy that the volume of distribution of HSA and HSA-CD4 is close to that of the blood compartment, and therefore suggests a distribution of the product limited to the extracellular compartment.

#### EXAMPLE 11: GENERIC CONSTRUCTIONS OF THE TYPE HSA-CD4.

##### E.11.1. Introduction of A<sub>ha</sub>III and B<sub>gl</sub>III sites at the end of the prepro region of HSA.

Introduction of the A<sub>ha</sub>III restriction site was carried out by site-directed mutagenesis using plasmid pYG232 and oligodeoxynucleotide Sq1187, to generate plasmid pYG364. Plasmid pYG232 was obtained by cloning the HindIII

fragment coding for prepro-HSA into the vector M13 mp9. The sequence of oligodeoxynucleotide Sq1187 is (the A<sub>h</sub>all site is in bold type):

5 5'- GTGTTCGTCG**A**GACGCCACAAGAGTGAGG-3'.

It should be noted that creation of the A<sub>h</sub>all site does not modify the protein sequence of the N-terminal of mature HSA. The construction of plasmid pYG364 is shown in Figure 25.

10 Plasmid pYG233 was obtained in analogous fashion, after site-directed mutagenesis of plasmid pYG232 using oligodeoxynucleotide Sq648 (the codons specifying the amino acid pair Arg-Arg situated at the end of the prepro region of HSA are in bold type, and the B<sub>g</sub>III site is underlined):

15 5'-GGTGTTCG**T**AGAT**C**TGCACACAAGAGTGAGG-3'

The creation of this restriction site does not change the protein sequence of the prepro region of HSA. In contrast, the first amino acid of the mature protein is changed from an aspartate to a serine; plasmid pYG233 therefore codes for a mature HSA modified at its N-terminal (HSA\*, Figure 25).

20 **E.11.2. Introduction of the prepro region of HSA upstream of the CD4 receptor.**

The introduction of the prepro region of HSA upstream of the V1V2 domains of the CD4 receptor was accomplished by site-directed mutagenesis, to generate plasmid pYG347 as shown in Figures 26 and 27. Plasmid pYG231 (Figure 26) is an intermediate construction corresponding to a pUC-type replicon into which has been cloned a SalI fragment carrying the expression cassette for HSA (yeast promoter/prepro-HSA/PGK terminator of S. cerevisiae). Plasmid pYG234 is isogenic to plasmid pYG231 except that oligodeoxynucleotide Sq648 was used to carry out the in vitro mutagenesis (E.11.1.).

25 Plasmid pYG347 was obtained by site-directed mutagenesis of plasmid pYG332 with oligodeoxynucleotide Sq1092 (Figure 27) whose sequence is as follows (HSA sequence is in italics and CD4 sequence is in bold type):

30 5'-CCAGGGTGT**T**TCGAAAG**A**AGTG**G**TG**C**TGGC-3'

35 Plasmid pYG347 therefore carries a HindIII fragment composed of the 21 nucleotides preceding the ATG codon of the PGK gene of S. cerevisiae, the ATG translation initiation codon, and the prepro region of HSA (LP<sub>HSA</sub>) immediately followed by the V1V2 domains of the CD4 receptor.

40 **E.11.3. Introduction of an A<sub>h</sub>all site at the end of the V1 domain of the CD4 receptor.**

45 The introduction of an A<sub>h</sub>all site at the end of the V1 domain of the CD4 receptor was accomplished by site-directed mutagenesis using oligodeoxynucleotide Sq1185 and a derivative of plasmid pYG347 (pYG368, Figure 28), to generate plasmid pYG362. The sequence of oligodeoxynucleotide Sq1185 is (the A<sub>h</sub>all site is shown in bold type):

50 5'-CCA**A**CTCTGACAC**C**GGACGCCAC**C**TG**C**TCAGG-3'.

Plasmid pYG362 therefore carries a HindIII-A<sub>h</sub>all fragment composed of the 21 nucleotides preceding the ATG codon of the PGK gene of S. cerevisiae followed by the coding sequence of the HSA prepro region fused to the V1 domain of the CD4 receptor, according to example E.11.2. In a fusion such as the example given here, the V1 domain of the CD4 receptor carries 106 amino acids and includes the functional binding site of the HIV-1 viral glycoprotein gp120.

55 **E.11.4. Introduction of an A<sub>h</sub>all site at the end of the V2 domain of the CD4 receptor.**

The introduction of an A<sub>h</sub>all site at the end of the V2 domain of the CD4 receptor was accomplished by site-directed mutagenesis using oligodeoxynucleotide Sq1186 and plasmid pYG368, to generate plasmid pYG363 (Figure 28). The sequence of oligodeoxynucleotide Sq1186 is (the A<sub>h</sub>all site is shown in bold type): 5'-GCTAGCTTCG**A**CGCCG-GGGGAATTG-3'. Plasmid pYG363 therefore carries a HindIII-A<sub>h</sub>all fragment composed of the 21 nucleotides pre-

ceding the ATG codon of the PGK gene of S. cerevisiae followed by the coding sequence for the HSA prepro region fused to the V1V2 domains of the CD4 receptor. In this particular fusion, the V1V2 domains contain 179 amino acids.

Other variants of plasmid pYG363 were generated by site-directed mutagenesis in order to introduce an Ahall at different places in the V2 domain of the CD4 receptor. In particular, plasmid pYG511, shown in Figure 28, does not contain the amino acid pair Lys-Lys at positions 166-167 of the V2 domain; this is due to the oligodeoxynucleotide used (Sq1252; the Ahall site is shown in bold type):

5' -GCAGAACCAAGGACGCCAAGGTGGAGTTC-3'.

10 **E.11.5. Generic constructions of the type V1-HSA.**

The plasmids described in the preceding examples allow for the generation of HindIII restriction fragments coding for hybrid proteins in which the receptor of the HIV-1 virus (fused to the signal sequence of HSA) precedes HSA. For example, plasmids pYG362 and PYG364 are respectively the source of a HindIII-Ahall fragment (fusion of the HSA prepro region to the V1 domain of the CD4 receptor), and an Ahall-NcoI fragment (N-terminal region of mature HSA obtained as in example E.11.1.). The ligation of these fragments with the NcoI-KpnI fragment (C-terminal region of HSA and terminator of the PGK gene of S. cerevisiae) in an analogue of plasmid pYG18 cut by HindIII and KpnI generates plasmid pYG371 whose structure is shown in Figure 29. In this plasmid, the gene coding for the hybrid protein V1-HSA fused to the HSA prepro region is cloned into an expression cassette functional in yeasts. This cassette can then be cloned into a replicative vector that can be selected in yeasts, for example the vector pKan707, which generates expression plasmid pYG373B (Figure 30).

25 **E.11.6. Generic constructions of the type V1V2-HSA.**

Hybrid proteins of the type V1V2-HSA were generated by the following strategy: in a first step, plasmids pYGS511 (Figure 28) and pYG374 (Figure 29) were respectively the source of the restriction fragments BglII-Ahall (fusion of the HSA prepro region and the V1V2 domains of the CD4 receptor) and Ahall-KpnI (in-frame fusion between mature HSA and the V1V2 domains of the CD4 receptor as exemplified in E.12.2.). Ligation of these fragments in a chloramphenicol resistant derivative of pBluescript II SK(+) vector (plasmid pSCBK(+), Stratagene) generates plasmid pYG537 (Figure 31). This plasmid contains a HindIII fragment coding for the hybrid bivalent molecule CD4-HSA-CD4 fused in-frame with the signal peptide of HSA as exemplified in E.11.2. Plasmid pYG547 which contains a HindIII fragment coding for the hybrid protein V1V2-HSA fused in-frame with the prepro region of HSA, was then derived by substitution of the PstI-KpnI fragment of pYG537 by the PstI-KpnI fragment from plasmid pYG371. The HindII fragment carried by plasmid pYG547 can then be expressed under control of a functional yeast promoter cloned in a vector that replicates, for example, in yeasts of the genus Kluyveromyces. One example is the expression plasmid pYG560 whose structure and restriction map are shown in Figure 32. Vector pYG105 used in this particular example corresponds to plasmid pKan707 whose HindIII site has been destroyed by site-directed mutagenesis (oligodeoxynucleotide Sq1053, 5'-GAAATGCATAAGCTCTGCCATTCTCACCG-3') and whose SalI-SacI fragment coding for the URA3 gene has been replaced by a SalI-SacI fragment carrying a cassette made up of a promoter, a terminator, and a unique HindIII site.

**EXAMPLE 12: BIVALENT HYBRID PROTEIN COMPLEXES.**

45 **E.12.1. Introduction of a stop codon downstream of the V1 domain of the CD4 receptor.**

Conventional techniques permit the introduction of a translation stop codon downstream of the domain of the CD4 receptor which is responsible for the binding of the HIV-1 viral glycoprotein gp120. For example, a TAA codon, immediately followed by a HindIII site, was introduced by site-directed mutagenesis downstream of the V1 domain of the CD4 receptor. In particular, the TAA codon was placed immediately after the amino acid in position 106 of the CD4 receptor (Thr<sup>106</sup>) using oligodeoxynucleotide Sq1034 and a plasmid analogous to plasmid M13-CD4 as matrix. The sequence of oligodeoxynucleotide Sq1034 is (the stop codon and the HindIII site are in bold type):

5' -

55 ACTGCCAACTCTGACACCTAAAAGCTTCGATCCCACCTGCTTCAGGGCAG-3'

## E.12.2. Constructions of the type CD4-HSA-CD4.

The plasmids described in examples E.11.5. et E.11.6. which exemplify generic constructions of the type CD4-HSA allow for the easy generation of bivalent constructions of the type CD4-HSA-CD4. Plasmids pYG374 (V1-HSA-V1V2) or pYG375 (V1-HSA-V1) illustrate two of these generic constructions: for example, the small MstII-HindIII fragment of plasmid pYG371 which codes for the last amino acids of HSA can be replaced by the MstII-HindIII fragment coding for the last 3 amino acids of HSA fused to the V1V2 domains of the CD4 receptor (plasmid pYG374, Figure 29), or to the V1 domain alone (plasmid pYG375, Figure 29). The genes coding for such bivalent hybrid proteins can then be expressed under control of a functional yeast promoter that replicates, for example, in yeasts of the genus Kluyveromyces. Examples of such expression plasmids are the plasmids pYG380B (V1-HSA-V1V2) and pYG381B (V1-HSA-V1) which are strictly isogenic to plasmid pYG373B (V1-HSA) except for the structural genes encoded in the HindIII fragments. The bivalent hybrid proteins described here are expressed at levels comparable to their monovalent equivalents, indicating a very weak level of recombination of the repeated sequences resulting from genetic recombination *in vivo* (Figure 33).

The construction of HindIII fragments coding for bivalent hybrid proteins of the type V1V2-HSA-V1V2 has already been described in Figure 31 (plasmid pYG537). The genes coding for such bivalent hybrid proteins of the type CD4-HSA-CD4 can then be expressed under control of a functional yeast promoter in a vector that replicates, for example, in yeasts of the genus Kluyveromyces. Such expression plasmids are generated by the strategy described in Figure 32 (cloning of a HindIII fragment into plasmids analogous to plasmid pYG560).

## E.12.3. Introduction of a dimerization domain.

For a given hybrid protein derived from albumin and carrying one or several binding sites for the HIV-1 virus, it may be desirable to include a polypeptide conferring a dimerization function, which allows for the agglomeration of trapped virus particles. An example of such a dimerization function is the "Leucine Zipper" (LZ) domain present in certain transcription regulatory proteins (JUN, FOS...). In particular, it is possible to generate a BgIII-AhIII fragment coding, for example, for the LZ of JUN, by the PCR technique by using the following oligodeoxynucleotides and the plasmid pTS301 (which codes for an in-frame fusion between the bacterial protein LexA and the LZ of JUN, T. Schmidt and M. Schnar, unpublished results) as matrix (BgIII and AhIII sites are underlined):

-GGTAGCTCGTGTGGACGCCAGATCTTCGAAAGAATTGCCCGTCTCGAAG-  
5'-  
5'-CTGCAGGTTAGGCGTGCCAACCACCAGTTGCTTCAGCTGTGC-3'  
-3'

This BgIII-AhIII fragment (Figure 34) can be ligated to the HindIII-BgIII fragment of plasmid pYG233 (HSA prepro region, Figure 25) and the AhIII-HindIII fragment as shown in one of the examples E.11. to generate a HindIII fragment coding for hybrid proteins of the type LZ-HSA-CD4, fused to the signal sequence of HSA. To prevent a possible dimerization of these molecules during their transit through the yeast secretory pathway, it may be desirable to utilize a LZ domain which cannot form homodimers. In this case the "Leucine Zipper" of FOS is preferred; dimerization would then result when these proteins are placed in the presence of other hybrid proteins carrying the LZ of JUN.

The introduction of carefully selected restriction sites that permit the construction of genes coding for hybrid proteins of the type LZ-CD4-HSA or LZ-CD4-HSA-CD4 is also possible, using conventional in vitro mutagenesis techniques or by PCR.

## EXAMPLE 13: GENETIC ENGINEERING OF THE HINGE REGION BETWEEN THE CD4 AND HSA MOIETIES.

E.13.1. Strategy using Bal31 exonuclease.

Proteins secreted by strain MW98-8C transformed by expression plasmids for HSA-CD4 hybrid proteins in which the CD4 moiety is carried on the MstII-HindIII fragment in the natural MstII site of HSA (plasmid pYG308B for example), were analyzed. Figure 35 demonstrates the presence of at least two cleavage products comigrating with the albumin standard (panel 2), which have a mature HSA N-terminal sequence, and which are not detectable using polyclonal antibodies directed against human CD4 (panels 2 and 3). It is shown that these cleavage products are generated during transit through the yeast secretory pathway, probably by the KEX1 enzyme of K. lactis (or another protease with a specificity analogous to the endoprotease YAP3 of S. cerevisiae whose gene has been cloned and sequenced (Egel-Mitani M. et al. Yeast 6 (1990) 127-137). Therefore, the peptide environment of the hinge region between the HSA and

CD4 moieties was modified, notably by fusion of the CD4 molecule (or one of its variants capable of binding the gp120 protein of HIV-1) to HSA N-terminal regions of varying length, according to the following strategy: plasmid pYG400 is an intermediate plasmid carrying the prepro-HSA gene, optimized with respect to the nucleotide sequence upstream of the ATG codon, on a HindIII fragment. This plasmid was linearized at its unique MstII site and partially digested by Bal31 exonuclease. After inactivation of this enzyme, the reaction mixture was treated with the Klenow fragment of E. coli DNA polymerase I and then subjected to ligation in the presence of an equimolar mixture of oligodeoxynucleotides Sq1462

(5'-GATCCCTAAGG-3') and Sq1463 (5'-CCTTAGGG-3') which together form a synthetic adaptor containing a MstII site preceding a BamHI site. After ligation, the reaction mixture was digested with HindIII and BamHI and fragments between 0.7 and 2.0 kb in size were separated by electroelution and cloned into an M13 mp19 vector cut by the same enzymes.  $10^6$  lytic plaques were thus obtained of which approximately one-third gave a blue color in the presence of IPTG and XGAL. Phage clones which remained blue were then sequenced, and in most cases contained an in-frame fusion between the HSA N-terminal moiety and  $\beta$ -galactosidase. These composite genes therefore contain HindIII-MstII fragments carrying sections of the N-terminal of HSA; Figure 36 shows several examples among the C-terminal two-thirds of HSA. These fragments were then ligated with a MstII-HindIII fragment corresponding to the CD4 moiety (for example the V1V2 domains of Figure 2, or the V1 domain alone), which generates HindIII fragments coding for hybrid proteins of the type HSA-CD4 in which the HSA moiety is of varying length. These restriction fragments were then cloned in the proper orientation into an expression cassette carrying a yeast promoter and terminator, and the assembly was introduced into yeasts. After growth of the culture, the hybrid proteins HSA-CD4 can be obtained in the culture medium; certain of these hybrids have an increased resistance to proteolytic cleavage in the hinge region (Figure 35).

#### E.13.2. Mutation of dibasic amino acid pairs.

Another way to prevent cleavage by endoproteases with specificity for dibasic amino acid pairs is to suppress these sites in the area of the hinge region between the HSA and the CD4 moieties (Figure 37), or in the area of the hinge region between CD4 and HSA (Figure 38). As an example, the hinge region present in the hybrid protein HSA-V1V2 coded by plasmid pYG308B is represented in Figure 37 (panel 1), and points out the presence of a Lys-Lys pair in the C-terminal of HSA and two such pairs in the N-terminal of the V1 domain of CD4. Using site-directed mutagenesis, these potential endoprotease cleavage sites can be suppressed by changing the second lysine in each pair to a glutamine (Risler J.L et al., J. Mol. Biol. 204 (1988) 1019-1029), for example by using plasmid M13-ompA-CD4 as matrix and the oligodeoxynucleotides Sq1090 and Sq1091 (the codons specifying glutamine are in bold type):

5'-GTGCTGGCAAACAAGGGATACAG-3'  
5'-GGCTTAAAGCAAGTGGTGCTG-3'

Plasmid M13-ompA-CD4 is a derivative of plasmid M13-CD4 in which the signal sequence of the ompA gene of E. coli is fused in frame to the CD4 receptor using the MstII site generated by PCR upstream of the V1 domain (example 1).

#### E.13.3. Introduction of a synthetic hinge region.

In order to promote an optimal interaction between the CD4 moiety fused to HSA, and the gp120 protein of the HIV-1 virus, it may be desirable to correctly space the two protein moieties which form the building blocks of the hybrid protein HSA-CD4. For example, a synthetic hinge region can be created between the HSA and CD4 moieties by site-directed mutagenesis to introduce a fragment of troponin C between amino acids 572 and 582 of mature HSA (Figure 37, panel 3). In this particular example, the junction peptide was introduced via site-directed mutagenesis by using a recombinant M13 phage (carrying the PstI-SacI fragment coding for the in-frame fusion between the C-terminal portion of HSA and the C-terminal part of the CD4 receptor) as matrix and oligodeoxynucleotide Sq1445:

5'-TGCTTGCCGAGGAGGGTAAGGAAGACGCTAAGGG-  
TAAGTCTGAAGAAGAAGCCTAGGCTTAAAGAAA-3'.

Similar techniques also permit the introduction of such a synthetic hinge region between the HSA and CD4 moieties

(junction peptide, Figure 38, panel 3).

**EXAMPLE 14: EXPRESSION OF HYBRID PROTEINS UNDER THE CONTROL OF DIFFERENT PROMOTERS.**

5 For a given protein secreted by cells at high levels, there exists a threshold above which the level of expression is incompatible with cell survival. Hence there exist certain combinations of secreted protein, promoter utilized to control its expression, and genetic background that are optimal for the most efficient and least costly production. It is therefore important to be able to express the hybrid proteins which are the object of the present invention under the control of various promoters. The composite genes coding for these proteins are generally carried on a HindIII restriction fragment  
 10 that can be cloned in the proper orientation into the HindIII site of a functional expression cassette of vectors that replicate in yeasts. The expression cassette can contain promoters that allow for constitutive or regulated expression of the hybrid protein, depending on the level of expression desired. Examples of plasmids with these characteristics include plasmid pYG105 (LAC4 promoter of K. lactis, Figure 32), plasmid pYG106 (PGK promoter of S. cerevisiae),  
 15 or plasmid pYG536 (PHO5 promoter of S. cerevisiae) etc... In addition, hybrid promoters can be used in which the UAS regions of tightly regulated promoters have been added, such as the hybrid promoters carried by plasmids pYG44 (PGK/LAC hybrid, European patent application EP N° 89 10480), pYG373B (PGK/GAL hybrid), pYG258 (PHO5/LAC hybrid) etc....

20 **Claims**

**Claims for the following Contracting States : AT, BE, CH, LI, DE, DK, FR, GB, IT, LU, NL, SE**

25 1. Hybrid macromolecule characterized by the covalent coupling of the active domain of a receptor to albumin or a variant of albumin, in which the active domain of the receptor is the active domain of a receptor intervening in the internalization of infectious virions complexed to immunoglobulins, or the active domain of a receptor of a factor intervening in an oncogenic process, or the V<sub>1</sub> domain or V<sub>1</sub>V<sub>2</sub> domains of the the CD<sub>4</sub> molecule of HIV<sub>1</sub>.

30 2. Macromolecule according to claim 1, in which the covalent coupling is accomplished by a peptide linkage.

35 3. Macromolecule according to claim 1, in which the active domain of the receptor is the active domain of a receptor of the type FC<sub>γ</sub>RIII.

40 4. Macromolecule according to claim 3, in which the active domain of the receptor is the active domain of the receptor CD<sub>16</sub>.

45 5. Macromolecule according to claim 1, in which the active domain of the receptor is the active domain of a tyrosine kinase-type receptor.

6. Macromolecule according to claim 5, in which the active domain of the receptor is the active domain of the proto-oncogene c-erbB-2.

7. Macromolecule according to one of the claims 1 through 6, characterized by the fact that the albumin used is of human origin.

8. Macromolecule according to one of the claims 1 through 7, characterized by the fact that it carries more than one active domain of a receptor.

50 9. Macromolecule according to one of the claims 1 through 8, in which albumin or the variant of albumin is localized at the N-terminal end.

10. Macromolecule according to claim 9, in which a dimerization or polymerization function is incorporated to permit an increase in the local concentration of said active domain of a receptor.

55 11. Macromolecule according to claims 1 to 10 characterized in that it is devoid of proteolytic cleavage sites between said active domain of a receptor, and albumin or said variant of albumin.

12. Macromolecule according to one of the claims 1 through 11, characterized by the fact that it is obtained by cultivating cells that have been transformed, transfected, or infected by a vector expressing such macromolecule.
- 5 13. Macromolecule according to claim 12, in which the transformed cell is a yeast.
14. Macromolecule according to claim 13, in which the yeast is a strain of the genus Kluyveromyces.
- 10 15. Macromolecule according to claim 13, in which the vector is an expression vector derived from plasmid pKD1 in which the genes A, B and C, the origin of replication, and the inverse repeats have been conserved.
16. A macromolecule according to one of the claims 1 through 15, for use as a pharmaceutical.
- 15 17. For use as a pharmaceutical according to claim 16, a macromolecule composed of human albumin or an albumin variant, and the V<sub>1</sub> domain of the CD4 molecule.
18. For use as a pharmaceutical according to claim 17, a macromolecule composed of human albumin or an albumin variant, and the V<sub>1</sub> V<sub>2</sub> domains of the CD4.
- 20 19. Cells that have been transformed, transfected, or infected by a vector expressing a macromolecule according to one of the claims 1 through 18.
- 20 20. Cells according to claim 19, characterized by the fact that these cells are yeasts.
- 25 21. Cells according to claim 20, characterized by the fact that the yeast is of the genus Kluyveromyces.

**Claims for the following Contracting State : ES**

1. Process for the preparation of a hybrid molecule comprising the covalent coupling of the active domain of a receptor to albumin or a variant of albumin, in which the active domain of the receptor is the active domain of a receptor intervening in the internalization of infectious virions complexed to immunoglobulins, or the active domain of a receptor of a factor intervening in an oncogenic process, or the V<sub>1</sub> domain or V<sub>1</sub> V<sub>2</sub> domains of the CD4 molecule of HIV<sub>1</sub>.
- 35 2. Process according to claim 1, in which the covalent coupling is accomplished by a peptide linkage.
3. Process according to claim 1, in which the active domain of the receptor is the active domain of a receptor of the type Fc<sub>γ</sub>RIII.
- 40 4. Process according to claim 3, in which the active domain of the receptor is the active domain of the receptor CD<sub>16</sub>.
5. Process according to claim 1, in which the active domain of the receptor is the active domain of a tyrosine kinase-type receptor.
- 45 6. Process according to claim 5, in which the active domain of the receptor is the active domain of the proto-oncogene c-erbB-2.
7. Process according to one of the claims 1 through 6, characterized by the fact that the albumin used is of human origin.
- 50 8. Process according to one of the claims 1 through 7, characterized by the fact that it carries more than one active domain of a receptor.
9. Process according to one of the claims 1 through 8, in which albumin or the variant of albumin is localized at the N-terminal end.
- 55 10. Process according to claim 9, in which a dimerization or polymerization function is incorporated to permit an increase in the local concentration of said active domain of a receptor.

11. Process according to claims 1 to 10 characterized in that it is devoid of proteolytic cleavage sites between said active domain of a receptor, and albumin or said variant of albumin.
- 5 12. Process according to one of the claims 1 through 11, characterized by the fact that it is obtained by cultivating cells that have been transformed, transfected, or infected by a vector expressing such macromolecule.
13. Process according to claim 12, in which the transformed cell is a yeast.
- 10 14. Process according to claim 13, in which the yeast is a strain of the genus Kluyveromyces.
- 15 15. Process according to claim 13, in which the vector is an expression vector derived from plasmid pKD1 in which the genes A, B and C, the origin of replication, and the inverse repeats have been conserved.
16. Process for the preparation of a pharmaceutical composition comprising mixing a molecule according to one of the claims 1 through 15, with a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.
- 20 17. Process for the preparation of a pharmaceutical composition comprising mixing a molecule composed of human albumin or an albumin variant and the  $V_1$  domain of the  $CD_4$  molecule with a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.
18. Process for the preparation of a pharmaceutical composition comprising mixing a macromolecule composed of human albumin or an albumin variant, and the  $V_1V_2$  domains of the  $CD_4$  with a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.
- 25 19. Process for the preparation of cells comprising transforming, transfecting or infecting cells by a vector expressing a macromolecule obtainable by the process of any of claim 1 to 15.
20. Process according to claim 19, characterized by the fact that these cells are yeasts.
- 30 21. Process according to claim 20, characterized by the fact that the yeast is of the genus Kluyveromyces.

**Claims for the following Contracting State : GR**

- 35 1. Hybrid macromolecule characterized by the covalent coupling of the active domain of a receptor to albumin or a variant of albumin, in which the active domain of the receptor is the active domain of a receptor intervening in the internalization of infectious virions complexed to immunoglobulins, or the active domain of a receptor of a factor intervening in an oncogenic process, or the  $V_1$  domain or  $V_1V_2$  domains of the the  $CD_4$  molecule of HIV<sub>1</sub>.
- 40 2. Macromolecule according to claim 1, in which the covalent coupling is accomplished by a peptide linkage.
3. Macromolecule according to claim 1, in which the active domain of the receptor is the active domain of a receptor of the type Fc $\gamma$ RIII.
- 45 4. Macromolecule according to claim 3, in which the active domain of the receptor is the active domain of the receptor  $CD_{16}$ .
5. Macromolecule according to claim 1, in which the active domain of the receptor is the active domain of a tyrosine kinase-type receptor.
- 50 6. Macromolecule according to claim 5, in which the active domain of the receptor is the active domain of the proto-oncogene c-erbB-2.
7. Macromolecule according to one of the claims 1 through 6, characterized by the fact that the albumin used is of human origin.
- 55 8. Macromolecule according to one of the claims 1 through 7, characterized by the fact that it carries more than one active domain of a receptor.

9. Macromolecule according to one of the claims 1 through 8, in which albumin or the variant of albumin is localized at the N-terminal end.
- 5 10. Macromolecule according to claim 9, in which a dimerization or polymerization function is incorporated to permit an increase in the local concentration of said active domain of a receptor.
11. Macromolecule according to claims 1 to 10 characterized in that it is devoid of proteolytic cleavage sites between said active domain of a receptor, and albumin or said variant of albumin.
- 10 12. Macromolecule according to one of the claims 1 through 11, characterized by the fact that it is obtained by cultivating cells that have been transformed, transfected, or infected by a vector expressing such macromolecule.
13. Macromolecule according to claim 12, in which the transformed cell is a yeast.
- 15 14. Macromolecule according to claim 13, in which the yeast is a strain of the genus Kluyveromyces.
- 15 15. Macromolecule according to claim 13, in which the vector is an expression vector derived from plasmid pKD1 in which the genes A, B and C, the origin of replication, and the inverse repeats have been conserved.
- 20 16. Process for the preparation of a pharmaceutical composition comprising mixing a molecule according to one of the claims 1 through 15, with a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.
17. Process for the preparation of a pharmaceutical composition comprising mixing a molecule composed of human albumin or an albumin variant and the V<sub>1</sub> domain of the CD<sub>4</sub> molecule with a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.
- 25 18. Process for the preparation of a pharmaceutical composition comprising mixing a macromolecule composed of human albumin or an albumin variant, and the V<sub>1</sub>V<sub>2</sub> domains of the CD<sub>4</sub> with a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.
- 30 19. Cells that have been transformed, transfected, or infected by a vector expressing a macromolecule according to one of the claims 1 through 15.
20. Cells according to claim 19, characterized by the fact that these cells are yeasts.
- 35 21. Cells according to claim 20, characterized by the fact that the yeast is of the genus Kluyveromyces.

**Patentansprüche**

40 **Patentansprüche für folgende Vertragsstaaten : AT, BE, CH, LI, DE, DK, FR, GB, IT, LU, NL, SE**

1. Hybridmakromolekül, gekennzeichnet durch die kovalente Kopplung der aktiven Domäne eines Rezeptors an Albumin oder eine Albuminvariante, wobei die aktive Domäne des Rezeptors die aktive Domäne eines Rezeptors, der an der Internalisierung eines infektiösen mit Immunglobulinen komplexierten Virions beteiligt ist, oder die aktive Domäne eines Rezeptors eines Faktors, der an einem onkogenen Prozeß beteiligt ist, oder die V<sub>1</sub>-Domäne oder V<sub>1</sub>V<sub>2</sub>-Domänen des CD<sub>4</sub>-Moleküls von HIV<sub>1</sub> ist.
- 45 2. Makromolekül nach Anspruch 1, wobei die kovalente Kopplung durch eine Peptidbindung erreicht ist.
3. Makromolekül nach Anspruch 1, wobei die aktive Domäne des Rezeptors die aktive Domäne eines Rezeptors vom Typ F<sub>c</sub>RIII ist.
- 50 4. Makromolekül nach Anspruch 3, wobei die aktive Domäne des Rezeptors die aktive Domäne des CD<sub>16</sub>-Rezeptors ist.
- 55 5. Makromolekül nach Anspruch 1, wobei die aktive Domäne des Rezeptors die aktive Domäne eines Rezeptors vom Tyrosinkinase-Typ ist.

6. Makromolekül nach Anspruch 5, wobei die aktive Domäne des Rezeptors die aktive Domäne des Protoonkogens c-erbB-2 ist.

5 7. Makromolekül nach einem der Ansprüche 1 bis 6, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß das verwendete Albumin menschlichen Ursprungs ist.

8. Makromolekül nach einem der Ansprüche 1 bis 7, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß es mehr als eine aktive Domäne eines Rezeptors enthält.

10 9. Makromolekül nach einem der Ansprüche 1 bis 8, wobei das Albumin oder die Albuminvariante am N-terminalen Ende lokalisiert ist.

15 10. Makromolekül nach Anspruch 9, wobei eine Dimerisations- oder Polymerisationsfunktion eingebaut ist, um eine Erhöhung der lokalen Konzentration der aktiven Domäne eines Rezeptors zu erlauben.

11. Makromolekül nach den Ansprüchen 1 bis 10, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß es keine proteolytischen Spaltstellen zwischen der aktiven Domäne eines Rezeptors und Albumin oder der Albuminvariante enthält.

20 12. Makromolekül nach einem der Ansprüche 1 bis 11, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß es durch Züchten von Zellen, die mit einem Vektor, der ein derartigen Makromolekül exprimiert, transformiert, transfiziert oder infiziert wurden, erhalten wird.

13. Makromolekül nach Anspruch 12, wobei die transformierte Zelle eine Hefezelle ist.

25 14. Makromolekül nach Anspruch 13, wobei die Hefe ein Stamm der Gattung Kluyveromyces ist.

15. Makromolekül nach Anspruch 13, wobei der Vektor ein Expressionsvektor ist, der von dem Plasmid pKD1 abgeleitet ist, worin die Gene A, B und C, der Replikationsorigin und die inversen repetitiven Sequenzen beibehalten sind.

30 16. Makromolekül nach einem der Ansprüche 1 bis 15 zur Verwendung als Arzneimittel.

17. Makromolekül aus menschlichem Albumin oder einer Albuminvariante und der V<sub>1</sub>-Domäne des CD<sub>4</sub>-Moleküls zur Verwendung als Arzneimittel nach Anspruch 16.

35 18. Makromolekül aus menschlichem Albumin oder einer Albuminvariante und den V<sub>1</sub>V<sub>2</sub>-Domänen des CD<sub>4</sub>-Moleküls zur Verwendung als Arzneimittel nach Anspruch 17.

19. Zellen, die durch einen Vektor, der das Makromolekül nach einem der Ansprüche 1 bis 18 exprimiert, transformiert, transfiziert oder infiziert worden sind.

40 20. Zellen nach Anspruch 19, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß die Zellen Hefezellen sind.

21. Zellen nach Anspruch 20, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß die Hefe der Gattung Kluyveromyces angehört.

45

**Patentansprüche für folgenden Vertragsstaat : ES**

50 1. Verfahren zur Herstellung eines Hybridmoleküls, umfassend die kovalente Kopplung der aktiven Domäne eines Rezeptors an Albumin oder eine Albuminvariante, wobei die aktive Domäne des Rezeptors die aktive Domäne eines Rezeptors, der an der Internalisierung eines infektiösen mit Immunglobulinen komplexierten Virions beteiligt ist, oder die aktive Domäne eines Rezeptors eines Faktors, der an einem onkogenen Prozeß beteiligt ist, oder die V<sub>1</sub>-Domäne oder V<sub>1</sub>V<sub>2</sub>-Domänen des CD<sub>4</sub>-Moleküls von HIV<sub>1</sub> ist.

55 2. Verfahren nach Anspruch 1, wobei die kovalente Kopplung durch eine Peptidbindung erreicht wird.

3. Verfahren nach Anspruch 1, wobei die aktive Domäne des Rezeptors die aktive Domäne eines Rezeptors vom Typ F<sub>cr</sub>RIII ist.

4. Verfahren nach Anspruch 3, wobei die aktive Domäne des Rezeptors die aktive Domäne des CD<sub>16</sub>-Rezeptors ist.
5. Verfahren nach Anspruch 1, wobei die aktive Domäne des Rezeptors die aktive Domäne eines Rezeptors vom Tyrosinkinase-Typ ist.
- 5  
6. Verfahren nach Anspruch 5, wobei die aktive Domäne des Rezeptors die aktive Domäne des Protoonkogens c-erbB-2 ist.
- 10  
7. Verfahren nach einem der Ansprüche 1 bis 6, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß das verwendete Albumin menschlichen Ursprungs ist.
8. Verfahren nach einem der Ansprüche 1 bis 7, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß es mehr als eine aktive Domäne eines Rezeptors enthält.
- 15  
9. Verfahren nach einem der Ansprüche 1 bis 8, wobei das Albumin oder die Albuminvariante am N-terminalen Ende lokalisiert ist.
- 10  
10. Verfahren nach Anspruch 9, wobei eine Dimerisations- oder Polymerisationsfunktion eingebaut wird, um eine Erhöhung der lokalen Konzentration der aktiven Domäne des Rezeptors zu erlauben.
- 20  
11. Verfahren nach den Ansprüchen 1 bis 10, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß keine proteolytischen Spaltstellen zwischen der aktiven Domäne eines Rezeptors und Albumin oder der Albuminvariante vorhanden ist.
- 25  
12. Verfahren nach einem der Ansprüche 1 bis 11, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß es durch Züchten von Zellen, die mit einem Vektor, der ein derartiges Makromolekül exprimiert, transformiert, transfiziert oder infiziert wurden, erhalten wird.
13. Verfahren nach Anspruch 12, wobei die transformierte Zelle eine Hefezelle ist.
- 30  
14. Verfahren nach Anspruch 13, wobei die Hefe ein Stamm der Gattung Kluyveromyces ist.
15. Verfahren nach Anspruch 13, wobei der Vektor ein Expressionsvektor ist, der von dem Plasmid pKD1 abgeleitet ist, worin die Gene A, B und C, der Replikationsorigin und die inversen repetitiven Sequenzen beibehalten sind.
- 35  
16. Verfahren zur Herstellung eines pharmazeutischen Präparats, wobei man ein Molekül nach einem der Ansprüche 1 bis 15 mit einem pharmazeutisch verträglichen Exzipiens vermischt.
- 40  
17. Verfahren zur Herstellung eines pharmazeutischen Präparats, wobei man ein Molekül aus menschlichem Albumin oder einer Albuminvariante und der V<sub>1</sub>-Domäne des CD<sub>4</sub>-Moleküls mit einem pharmazeutisch verträglichen Exzipiens vermischt.
18. Verfahren zur Herstellung eines pharmazeutischen Präparats wobei man ein Makromolekül aus menschlichem Albumin oder einer Albuminvariante und den V<sub>1</sub>V<sub>2</sub>-Domänen des CD<sub>4</sub>-Moleküls mit einem pharmazeutisch verträglichen Exzipiens vermischt.
- 45  
19. Verfahren zur Herstellung von Zellen, wobei man Zellen durch einen Vektor, der ein durch ein Verfahren nach einem der Ansprüche 1 bis 15 erhältliches Makromolekül exprimiert, transformiert, transfiziert oder infiziert.
20. Verfahren nach Anspruch 19, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß die Zellen Hefezellen sind.
- 50  
21. Verfahren nach Anspruch 20, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß die Hefe der Gattung Kluyveromyces angehört.

**Patentansprüche für folgenden Vertragsstaat : GR**

- 55  
1. Hybridmakromolekül, gekennzeichnet durch die kovalente Kopplung der aktiven Domäne eines Rezeptors an Albumin oder eine Albuminvariante, wobei die aktive Domäne des Rezeptors die aktive Domäne eines Rezeptors, der an der Internalisierung eines infektiösen mit Immunglobulinen komplexierten Virions beteiligt ist, oder die aktive

Domäne eines Rezeptors eines Faktors, der an einem onkogenen Prozeß beteiligt ist, oder die V<sub>1</sub>-Domäne oder V<sub>1</sub>V<sub>2</sub>-Domänen des CD<sub>4</sub>-Moleküls von HIV<sub>1</sub> ist.

2. Makromolekül nach Anspruch 1, wobei die kovalente Kopplung durch eine Peptidbindung erreicht ist.
- 5 3. Makromolekül nach Anspruch 1, wobei die aktive Domäne des Rezeptors die aktive Domäne eines Rezeptors vom Typ F<sub>cγ</sub>RIII ist.
- 10 4. Makromolekül nach Anspruch 3, wobei die aktive Domäne des Rezeptors die aktive Domäne des CD<sub>16</sub>-Rezeptors ist.
- 5 5. Makromolekül nach Anspruch 1, wobei die aktive Domäne des Rezeptors die aktive Domäne eines Rezeptors vom Tyrosinkinase-Typ ist.
- 15 6. Makromolekül nach Anspruch 5, wobei die aktive Domäne des Rezeptors die aktive Domäne des Protoonkogens c-erbB-2 ist.
- 20 7. Makromolekül nach einem der Ansprüche 1 bis 6, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß das verwendete Albumin menschlichen Ursprungs ist.
8. Makromolekül nach einem der Ansprüche 1 bis 7, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß es mehr als eine aktive Domäne eines Rezeptors enthält.
- 25 9. Makromolekül nach einem der Ansprüche 1 bis 8, wobei das Albumin oder die Albuminvariante am N-terminalen Ende lokalisiert ist.
10. Makromolekül nach Anspruch 9, wobei eine Dimerisations- oder Polymerisationsfunktion eingebaut ist, um eine Erhöhung der lokalen Konzentration der aktiven Domäne des Rezeptors zu erlauben.
- 30 11. Makromolekül nach den Ansprüchen 1 bis 10, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß es keine proteolytischen Spaltstellen zwischen der aktiven Domäne eines Rezeptors und Albumin oder der Albuminvariante enthält.
12. Makromolekül nach einem der Ansprüche 1 bis 11, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß es durch Züchten von Zellen, die mit einem Vektor, der ein derartiges Makromolekül exprimiert, transformiert, transzisiert oder infiziert wurden, erhalten wird.
- 35 13. Makromolekül nach Anspruch 12, wobei die transformierte Zelle eine Hefezelle ist.
14. Makromolekül nach Anspruch 13, wobei die Hefe ein Stamm der Gattung Kluyveromyces ist.
- 40 15. Makromolekül nach Anspruch 13, wobei der Vektor ein Expressionsvektor ist, der von dem Plasmid pKD1 abgeleitet ist, worin die Gene A, B und C, der Replikationsorigin und die inversen repetitiven Sequenzen beibehalten sind.
16. Verfahren zur Herstellung eines pharmazeutischen Präparats, wobei man ein Molekül nach einem der Ansprüche 1 bis 15 mit einem pharmazeutisch verträglichen Exziopiens vermischt.
- 45 17. Verfahren zur Herstellung eines pharmazeutischen Präparats, wobei man ein Molekül aus menschlichem Albumin oder einer Albuminvariante und der V<sub>1</sub>-Domäne des CD<sub>4</sub>-Moleküls mit einem pharmazeutisch verträglichen Exziopiens vermischt.
18. Verfahren zur Herstellung eines pharmazeutischen Präparats wobei man ein Makromolekül aus menschlichem Albumin oder einer Albuminvariante und den V<sub>1</sub>V<sub>2</sub>-Domänen des CD<sub>4</sub>-Moleküls mit einem pharmazeutisch verträglichen Exziopiens vermischt.
- 50 19. Zellen, die durch einen Vektor, der das Makromolekül nach einem der Ansprüche 1 bis 15 exprimiert, transformiert, transzisiert oder infiziert worden sind.

20. Zellen nach Anspruch 19, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß die Zellen Hefezellen sind.

21. Zellen nach Anspruch 20, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß die Hefe der Gattung Kluyveromyces angehört.

5

## Revendications

Revendications pour les Etats contractants suivants : AT, BE, CH, LI, DE, DK, FR, GB, IT, LU, NL, SE

10

1. Macromolécule hybride caractérisée par le couplage covalent du domaine actif d'un récepteur donné à l'albumine ou à un variant de l'albumine, dans laquelle le domaine actif du récepteur est le domaine actif d'un récepteur intervenant dans l'internalisation de virions infectieux complexés à des immunoglobulines, ou le domaine actif d'un récepteur d'un facteur intervenant dans un processus oncogène, ou le domaine  $V_1$  ou les domaines  $V_1V_2$  de la molécule  $CD_4$  de reconnaissance du  $HIV_1$ .

15

2. Macromolécule selon la revendication 1, dans laquelle le couplage covalent s'effectue au moyen d'une liaison peptidique.

20

3. Macromolécule selon la revendication 1, dans laquelle le domaine actif du récepteur est le domaine actif d'un récepteur de type  $FcyRIII$ .

25

4. Macromolécule selon la revendication 3, dans laquelle le domaine actif du récepteur est le domaine actif du récepteur  $CD_{16}$ .

30

5. Macromolécule selon la revendication 1, dans laquelle le domaine actif du récepteur est le domaine actif d'un récepteur de type tyrosine-kinase.

35

6. Macromolécule selon la revendication 5, dans laquelle le domaine actif du récepteur est le domaine actif du proto-oncogène c-erb $\beta$ -2.

40

7. Macromolécule selon l'une des revendications 1 à 6, caractérisée en ce que l'albumine utilisée est d'origine humaine.

45

8. Macromolécule selon l'une des revendications 1 à 7, caractérisée en ce qu'elle porte plus d'un domaine actif de récepteur.

50

9. Macromolécule selon l'une des revendications 1 à 8, dans laquelle l'albumine ou le variant d'albumine est situé à l'extrémité N-terminale.

55

10. Macromolécule selon la revendication 9, dans laquelle il y a incorporation d'une fonction de dimérisation ou de polymérisation en vue de permettre une élévation de la concentration locale dudit domaine actif de récepteur.

60

11. Macromolécule selon les revendications 1 à 10, caractérisée en ce qu'elle est dépourvue de sites de clivage protéolytiques entre ledit domaine actif de récepteur, et l'albumine ou ledit variant d'albumine.

65

12. Macromolécule selon les revendications 1 à 11, caractérisée en ce qu'elle est obtenue par mise en culture de cellules transformées, transfectées, ou infectées par un vecteur exprimant une telle macromolécule.

70

13. Macromolécule selon la revendication 12, dans laquelle la cellule transformée est une levure.

75

14. Macromolécule selon la revendication 13, dans laquelle la levure est une souche du genre Kluyveromyces.

80

15. Macromolécule selon la revendication 13, dans laquelle le vecteur est un vecteur d'expression dérivé du plasmide pKD1 dans lequel les gènes A, B et C, l'origine de réplication, et les segments inversement répétés ont été conservés.

16. Macromolécule selon l'une des revendications 1 à 15, pour utilisation comme substance pharmaceutique.

17. Macromolécule composée d'albumine humaine ou d'un variant d'albumine, et du domaine  $V_1$  de la molécule  $CD_4$  pour utilisation comme substance pharmaceutique selon la revendication 16.

5 18. Macromolécule composée d'albumine humaine ou d'un variant d'albumine, et des domaines  $V_1V_2$  de  $CD_4$  pour utilisation comme substance pharmaceutique selon la revendication 17.

19. Cellules transformées, transfectées, ou infectées par un vecteur exprimant une macromolécule selon l'une des revendications 1 à 18.

10 20. Cellules selon la revendication 19, caractérisées en ce que ce qu'elles sont des levures.

21. Cellules selon la revendication 20, caractérisées en ce que la levure appartient au genre Kluyveromyces.

15 Revendications pour l'Etat contractant suivant : ES

1. Procédé de préparation d'une macromolécule hybride comprenant le couplage covalent du domaine actif d'un récepteur donné à l'albumine ou à un variant de l'albumine, dans lequel le domaine actif du récepteur est le domaine actif d'un récepteur intervenant dans l'internalisation de virions infectieux complexés à des immunoglobulines, ou le domaine actif d'un récepteur d'un facteur intervenant dans un processus oncogène, ou le domaine  $V_1$  ou les domaines  $V_1V_2$  de la molécule  $CD_4$  de reconnaissance du  $HIV_1$ .

20 2. Procédé selon la revendication 1, dans lequel le couplage covalent s'effectue au moyen d'une liaison peptidique.

25 3. Procédé selon la revendication 1, dans lequel le domaine actif du récepteur est le domaine actif d'un récepteur de type  $Fc\gamma RIII$ .

4. Procédé selon la revendication 3, dans lequel le domaine actif du récepteur est le domaine actif du récepteur  $CD_{16}$ .

30 5. Procédé selon la revendication 1, dans lequel le domaine actif du récepteur est le domaine actif d'un récepteur de type tyrosine-kinase.

6. Procédé selon la revendication 5, dans lequel le domaine actif du récepteur est le domaine actif du proto-oncogène  $c-erb\beta-2$ .

35 7. Procédé selon l'une des revendications 1 à 6, caractérisé en ce que l'albumine utilisée est d'origine humaine.

8. Procédé selon l'une des revendications 1 à 7, caractérisé en ce que la macromolécule porte plus d'un domaine actif de récepteur.

40 9. Procédé selon l'une des revendications 1 à 8, dans lequel l'albumine ou le variant d'albumine est situé à l'extrémité N-terminale.

10. Procédé selon la revendication 9, dans lequel il y a incorporation d'une fonction de dimérisation ou de polymérisation en vue de permettre une élévation de la concentration locale dudit domaine actif de récepteur.

45 11. Procédé selon les revendications 1 à 10, caractérisé en ce que la macromolécule est dépourvue de sites de clivage protéolytique entre ledit domaine actif de récepteur, et l'albumine ou ledit variant d'albumine.

50 12. Procédé selon l'une des revendications 1 à 11, caractérisé en ce que la macromolécule est obtenue par mise en culture de cellules transformées, transfectées, ou infectées par un vecteur exprimant une telle macromolécule.

13. Procédé selon la revendication 12, dans lequel la cellule transformée est une levure.

55 14. Procédé selon la revendication 13, dans lequel la levure est une souche du genre Kluyveromyces.

15. Procédé selon la revendication 13, dans lequel le vecteur est un vecteur d'expression dérivé du plasmide  $pKD1$  dans lequel les gènes A, B et C, l'origine de réplication, et les segments inversement répétés ont été conservés.

16. Procédé de préparation d'une composition pharmaceutique comprenant le mélange d'une molécule selon l'une des revendications 1 à 15, avec un excipient pharmaceutiquement acceptable.

5 17. Procédé de préparation d'une composition pharmaceutique comprenant le mélange d'une molécule composée d'albumine humaine ou d'un variant d'albumine et du domaine  $V_1$  de la molécule  $CD_4$  avec un excipient pharmaceutiquement acceptable.

10 18. Procédé de préparation d'une composition pharmaceutique comprenant le mélange d'une macromolécule composée d'albumine humaine ou d'un variant d'albumine, et des domaines  $V_1 V_2$  de  $CD_4$  avec un excipient pharmaceutiquement acceptable.

15 19. Procédé de préparation de cellules comprenant la transformation, la transfection ou l'infection de cellules avec un vecteur exprimant une macromolécule pouvant être obtenue selon le procédé de l'une quelconque des revendications 1 à 15.

20 20. Procédé selon la revendication 19, caractérisé en ce que ces cellules sont des levures.

21. Procédé selon la revendication 20, caractérisé en ce que la levure appartient au genre Kluyveromyces.

20 **Revendications pour l'Etat contractant suivant : GR**

1. Macromolécule hybride caractérisée par le couplage covalent du domaine actif d'un récepteur donné à l'albumine ou à un variant de l'albumine, dans laquelle le domaine actif du récepteur est le domaine actif d'un récepteur intervenant dans l'internalisation de virions infectieux complexés à des immunoglobulines, ou le domaine actif d'un récepteur d'un facteur intervenant dans un processus oncogène, ou le domaine  $V_1$  ou les domaines  $V_1 V_2$  de la molécule  $CD_4$  de reconnaissance du  $HIV_1$ .

25 2. Macromolécule selon la revendication 1, dans laquelle le couplage covalent s'effectue au moyen d'une liaison peptidique.

30 3. Macromolécule selon la revendication 1, dans laquelle le domaine actif du récepteur est le domaine actif d'un récepteur de type  $Fc\gamma RIII$ .

35 4. Macromolécule selon la revendication 3, dans laquelle le domaine actif du récepteur est le domaine actif du récepteur  $CD_{16}$ .

5 5. Macromolécule selon la revendication 1, dans laquelle le domaine actif du récepteur est le domaine actif d'un récepteur de type tyrosine-kinase.

40 6. Macromolécule selon la revendication 5, dans laquelle le domaine actif du récepteur est le domaine actif du proto-oncogène c-erb $\beta$ -2.

7. Macromolécule selon l'une des revendications 1 à 6, caractérisée en ce que l'albumine utilisée est d'origine humaine.

45 8. Macromolécule selon l'une des revendications 1 à 7, caractérisée en ce qu'elle porte plus d'un domaine actif de récepteur.

50 9. Macromolécule selon l'une des revendications 1 à 8, dans laquelle l'albumine ou le variant d'albumine est situé à l'extrémité N-terminale.

10. Macromolécule selon la revendication 9, dans laquelle il y a incorporation d'une fonction de dimérisation ou de polymérisation en vue de permettre une élévation de la concentration locale dudit domaine actif de récepteur.

55 11. Macromolécule selon les revendications 1 à 10, caractérisée en ce qu'elle est dépourvue de sites de clivage protéolytiques entre ledit domaine actif de récepteur, et l'albumine ou ledit variant d'albumine.

12. Macromolécule selon l'une des revendications 1 à 11, caractérisée en ce qu'elle est obtenue par mise en culture de cellules préalablement transformées, transfectées, ou infectées par un vecteur exprimant une telle macromolécule.

5 13. Macromolécule selon la revendication 12, dans laquelle la cellule transformée est une levure.

14. Macromolécule selon la revendication 13, dans laquelle la levure est une souche du genre Kluyveromyces.

10 15. Macromolécule selon la revendication 13, dans laquelle le vecteur est un vecteur d'expression dérivé du plasmide pKD1 dans lequel les gènes A, B et C, l'origine de réplication, et les segments inversement répétés ont été conservés.

16. Procédé de préparation d'une composition pharmaceutique comprenant le mélange d'une molécule selon l'une des revendications 1 à 15, avec un excipient pharmaceutiquement acceptable.

15 17. Procédé de préparation d'une composition pharmaceutique comprenant le mélange d'une molécule composée d'albumine humaine ou d'un variant d'albumine et du domaine  $V_1$  de la molécule  $CD_4$  avec un excipient pharmaceutiquement acceptable.

20 18. Procédé de préparation d'une composition pharmaceutique comprenant le mélange d'une macromolécule composée d'albumine humaine ou d'un variant d'albumine, et des domaines  $V_1V_2$  de  $CD_4$  avec un excipient pharmaceutiquement acceptable.

25 19. Cellules préalablement transformées, transfectées, ou infectées par un vecteur exprimant une macromolécule selon l'une des revendications 1 à 15.

20. Cellules selon la revendication 19, caractérisées en ce que ce qu'elles sont des levures.

21. Cellules selon la revendication 20, caractérisées en ce que la levure appartient au genre Kluyveromyces.

30

35

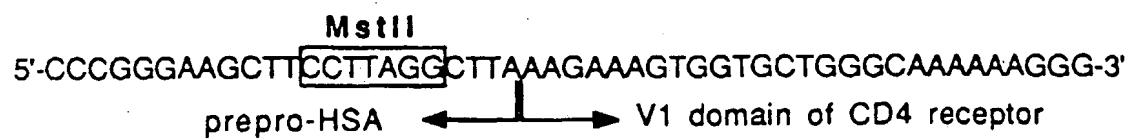
40

45

50

55

OLIGODEOXYNUCLEOTIDE Xo126



OLIGODEOXYNUCLEOTIDE Xo127

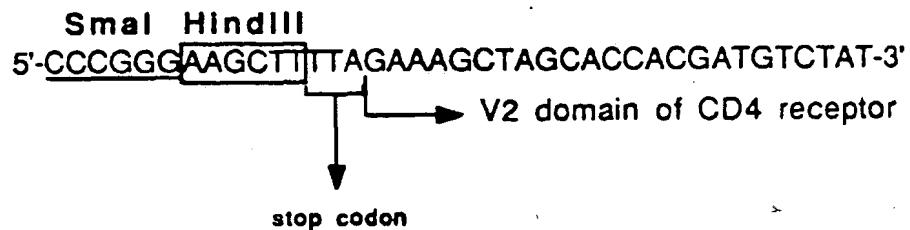


Figure 1

MstII

CCTTAGGCTTAAAGAAAGTGGTGTGGCAAAAAGGGATACAGTGGAACTGACCTGTACAGCTTCCCAGAAGA

01	11	21	31	41	51	61	71
----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----

AGAGCATACAATTCCACTGGAAAAACTCCAACCAAGATAAAGATTCTGGAAATCAGGGCTCCTCTTAACAAAG

76	86	96	106	116	126	136	146
----	----	----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

GTCCATCCAAGCTGAATGATCGCGCTGACTCAAGAAGAAGCCTTGGGACCAAGGAAACTTCCCCCTGATCATCA

151	161	171	181	191	201	211	221
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

AGAATCTTAAGATAGAAGACTCAGATACTTACATCTGTGAAGTGGAGGACCAGAAGGAGGAGGTGCAATTGCTAG

226	236	246	256	266	276	286	296
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

TGTTCGGATTGACTGCCAACTCTGACACCCACCTGCTTCAGGGCAGAGCCTGACCCCTGACCTTGGAGAGCCCCC

301	311	321	331	341	351	361	371
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

CTGGTAGTAGCCCCCTCAGTGCATGTAGGAGTCCAAGGGTAAAAACATACAGGGGGGAAGACCCCTCCGTGT

376	386	396	406	416	426	436	446
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

CTCAGCTGGAGCTCCAGGATAGTGGCACCTGGACATGCACGTCTGCAGAACCAAGAAGGTGGAGTTCAAAA

451	461	471	481	491	501	511	521
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

HindIII SmaI

TAGACATCGTGGTGTAGCTTCTAAAGCTTCCCAGG

526	536	546	556
-----	-----	-----	-----

Figure 2

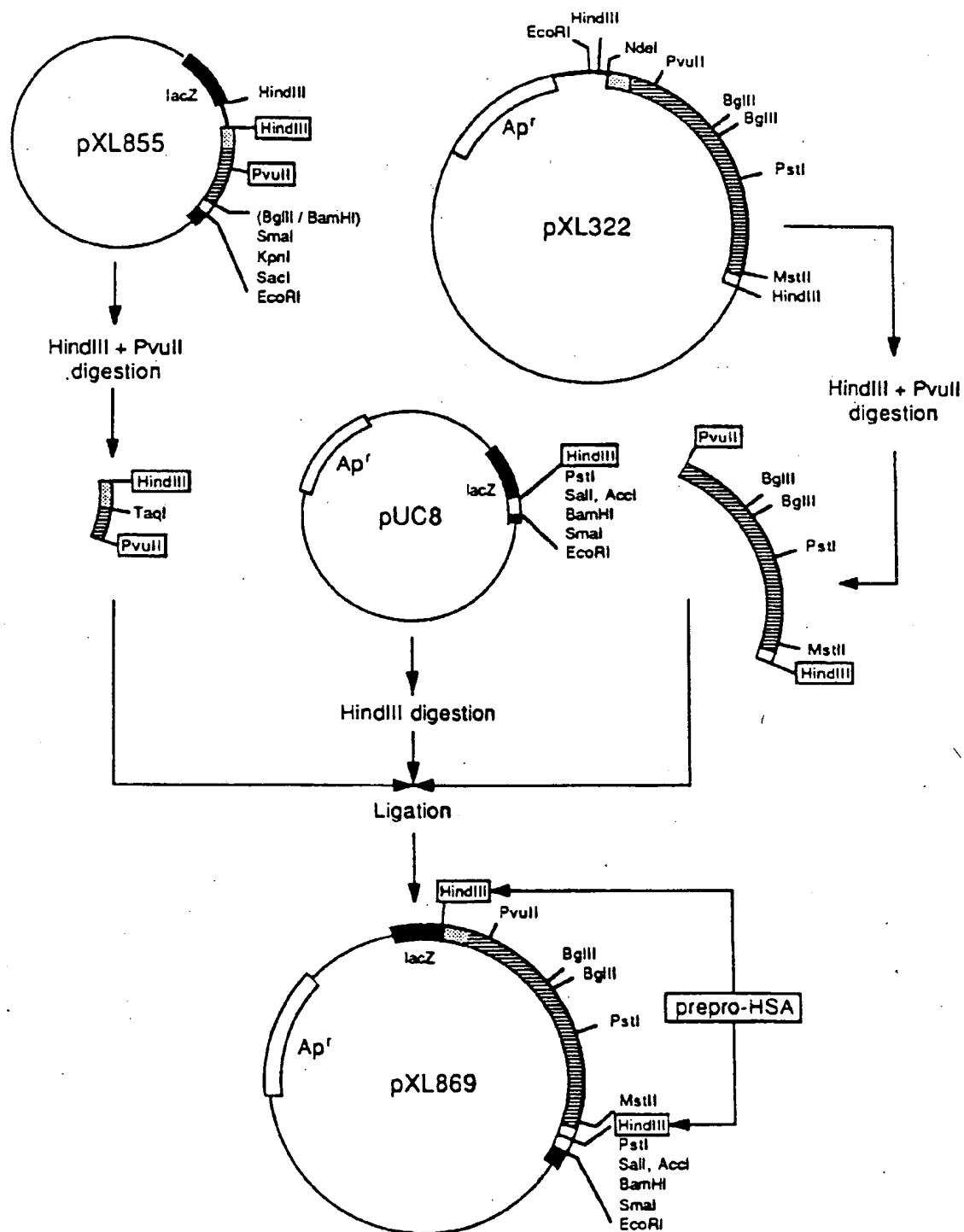


Figure 3

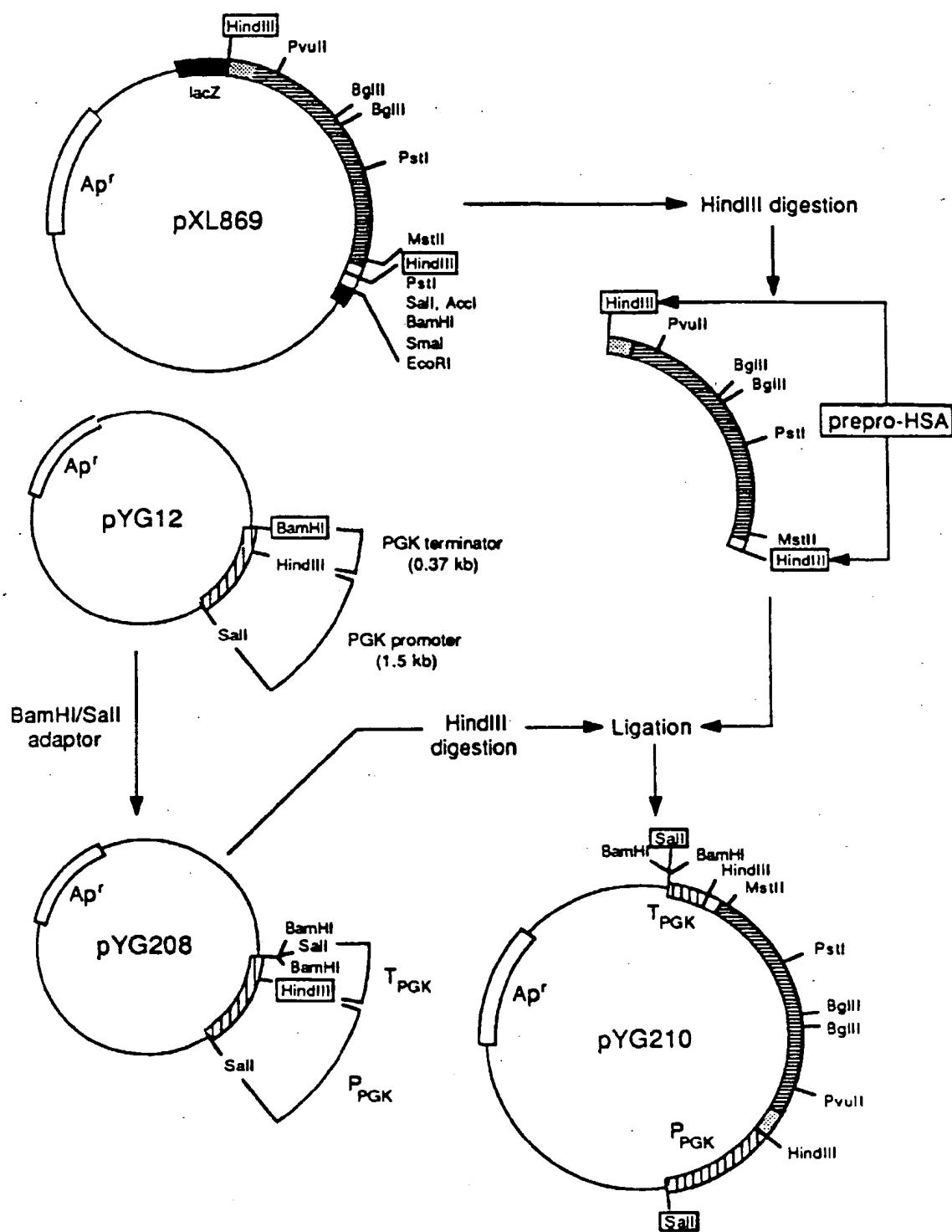


Figure 4

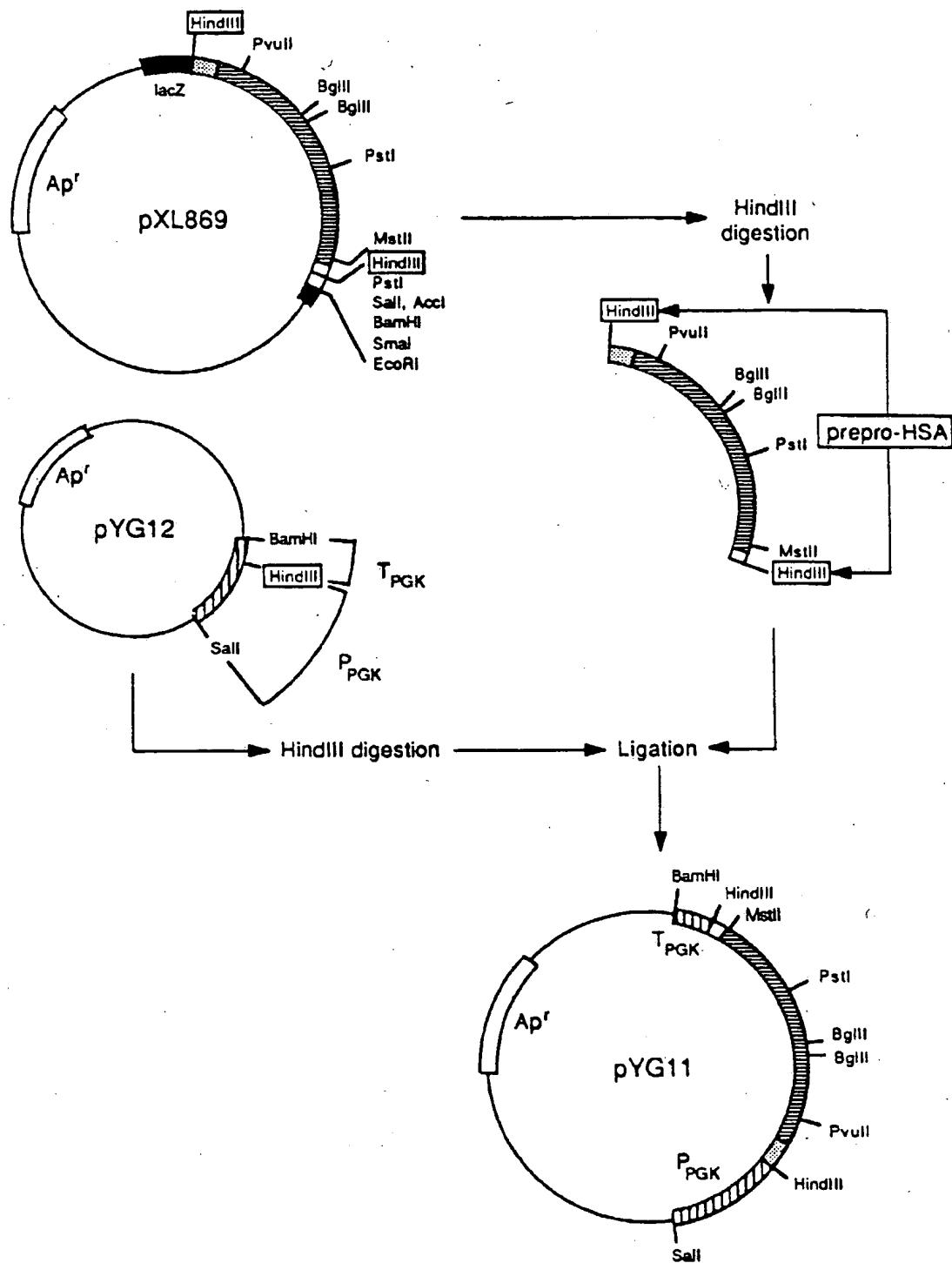


Figure 5

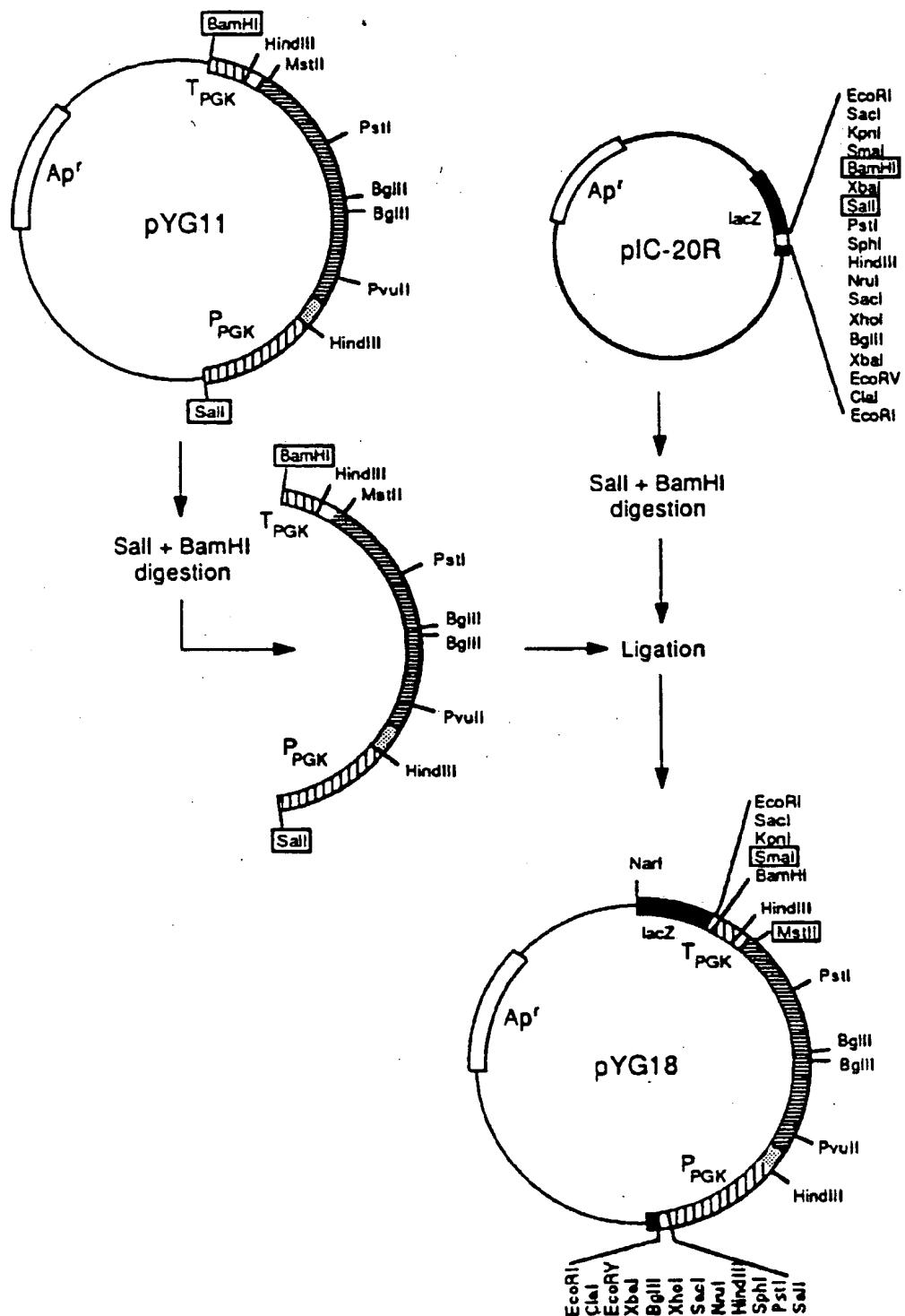


Figure 6

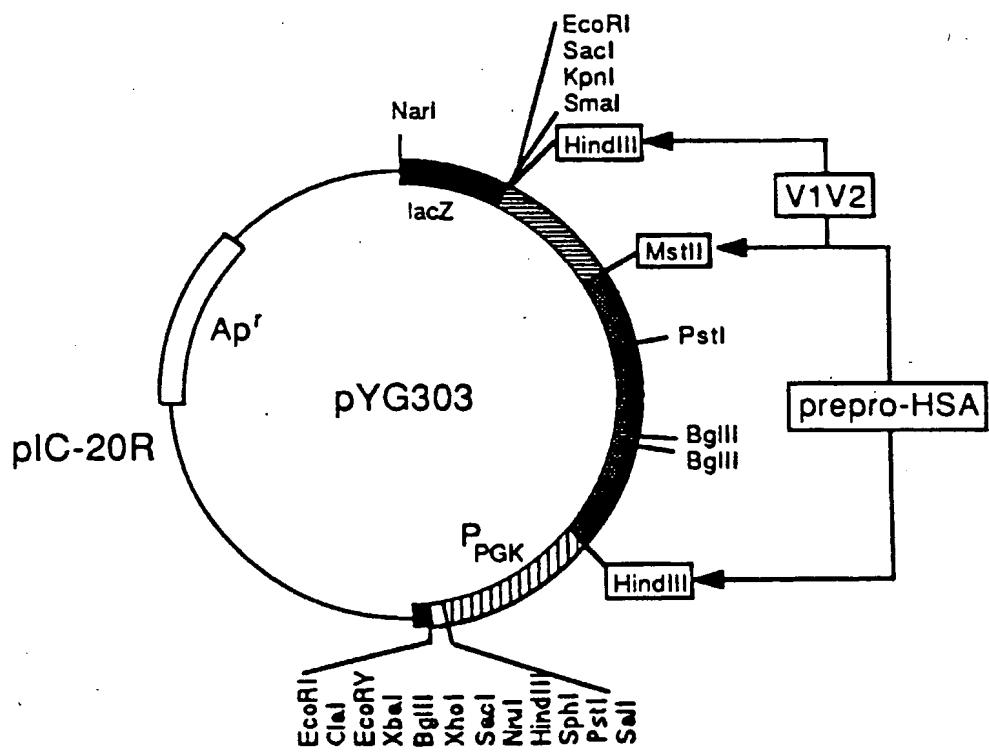


Figure 7

↓

MetLysTrpValThrPheIleSerLeuLeuPheLeuPheSerSerAlaTyrSerArgGlyValPheArg  
 1      11      21      31      41      51      61      71  
 ↓  
 ArgAspAlaHisLysSerGluValAlaHisArgPheLysAspLeuGlyGluGluAsnPheLysAlaLeuValLeu  
 76      86      96      106      116      126      136      146  
 CGAGATGCACACAAGAGTGAGGTTGCTCATCGGTTAAAGATTGGAGAAGAAAATTCAAAGCCTGGTGGTGG  
 151      161      171      181      191      201      211      221  
 IleAlaPheAlaGlnTyrLeuGlnGlnCysProPheGluAspHisValLysLeuValAsnGluValThrGluPhe  
 ATTGCCTTGCTCAGTATCTCAGCAGTGTCCATTGAAAGATCATGTAAAATTAGTGAATGAAGTAACGTGAATT  
 226      236      246      256      266      276      286      296  
 ATTGAGCTGCTGAACTCTCGTGAACCTATGGTGAATGGCTGACTGCTGTGCAAAACAAGAACCTGAGAGAAAATTA  
 301      311      321      331      341      351      361      371  
 AlaLysThrCysValAlaAspGluSerAlaGluAsnCysAspLysSerLeuHisThrLeuPheGlyAspLysLeu  
 GCAAAACATGTGTTGCTGATGAGTCAGCTGAAATTGACAAATCACTCATACCCCTTTGGAGACAAATTAA  
 376      386      396      406      416      426      436      446  
 CysThrValAlaThrLeuArgGluThrTyrGlyGluMetAlaAspCysCysAlaLysGlnGluProGluArgAsn  
 TGCACAGTTGCAACTCTCGTGAACCTATGGTGAATGGCTGACTGCTGTGCAAAACAAGAACCTGAGAGAAAAT  
 451      461      471      481      491      501      511      521  
 TyrAlaPheHisAspAsnGluGluThrPheLeuLysTyrLeuTyrGluIleAlaArgArgHisProTyrPhe  
 ACTGCTTTCATGACAATGAAGAGACATTGAAAAATTACTTATATGAAATTGCCAGAACATCCTTACTTT  
 526      536      546      556      566      576      586      596  
 TATGCCCGGAACCTCTTCTTCTGCTAAAGGTATAAGCTGCTTACAGAATGGCTGCAAGCTGCTGATAAAA  
 601      611      621      631      641      651      661      671  
 AlaAlaCysLeuLeuProLysLeuAspGluLeuArgAspGluGlyLysAlaSerSerAlaLysGlnArgLeuLys  
 GCTGCCTGCCTGTTGCCAAAGCTCGATGAACCTCGGGATGAAGGGAGGCTCGCTGCCAACAGAGACTCAAG  
 676      686      696      706      716      726      736      746  
 CysAlaSerLeuGlnLysPheGlyGluArgAlaPheLysAlaTrpAlaValAlaArgLeuSerGlnArgPhePro  
 TGTGCCAGTCTCCAAAAATTGGAGAAAGAGCTTCAAAGCATGGCAGTAGCTGCCCTGAGCCAGAGATTCCC  
 751      761      771      781      791      801      811      821  
 LysAlaGluPheAlaGluValSerLysLeuValThrAspLeuThrLysValHisThrGluCysCysHisGlyAsp  
 AAAGCTGAGTTGCAGAAAGTTCCAAGTTAGTGCACAGATCTTACCAAAGTCCACCGAATGCCATGGAGAT  
 826      836      846      856      866      876      886      896  
 CTGCTTGAATGTGCTGATGACAGGGCGGACCTTGCCTGAAAGTATATCTGTGAAAATCAAGATTGATCTCCAGTAAA  
 901      911      921      931      941      951      961      971  
 LeuLysGluCysCysGluLysProLeuLeuGluLysSerHisCysIleAlaGluValGluAsnAspGluMetPro  
 CTGAAGGAATGCTGTGAAAAACCTCTGTTGGAAAATCCCACTGCATTGCCGAAGTGGAAAATGATGAGATGCC  
 976      986      996      1006      1016      1026      1036      1046  
 GCTGACTTGCCTTCATTAGCTGCTGATTTGTTGAAAGATGTTGCAAAACTATGCTGAGGCCAAAGGAT

Figure 8A

ValPheLeuGlyMetPheLeuTyrGluTyrAlaArgArgHisProAspTyrSerValValLeuLeuLeuArgLeu  
 GTCTTCCTGGGCATGTTTGATGAATATGCAAGAAGGCATCCGATTACTCTGCTGACTGCTGAGACTT  
 1051 1061 1071 1081 1091 1101 1111 1121

AlaLysThrTyrGluThrThrLeuGluLysCysCysAlaAlaAlaAspProHisGluCysTyrAlaLysValPhe  
 GCCAAGACATATGAAACCCTCTAGAGAAGTGCTGTGCCGCTGCAGATCCCATGAATGCTATGCCAAAGTGTTC  
 1126 1136 1146 1156 1166 1176 1186 1196

AspGluPheLysProLeuValGluGluProGlnAsnLeuIleLysGlnAsnCysGluLeuPheGluGlnLeuGly  
 GATGAATTAAACCTCTTGAGGAGAGCCTCAGAATTAAACAAACAAATTGTGAGCTTTGAGCAGCTTGGA  
 1201 1211 1221 1231 1241 1251 1261 1271

GluTyrLysPheGlnAsnAlaLeuLeuValArgTyrThrLysLysValProGlnValSerThrProThrLeuVal  
 GAGTACAAATTCCAGAATGCCCTATTAGTCGTTACACCAAGAAAGTACCCCAAGTGTCAACTCCAACCTTGTA  
 1276 1286 1296 1306 1316 1326 1336 1346

GluValSerArgAsnLeuGlyLysValGlySerLysCysCysLysHisProGluAlaLysArgMetProCysAla  
 GAGGTCTCAAGAACCTAGGAAAGTGGCAGCAAATGTTGAAACATCCTGAAGCAAAAGAATGCCCTGTGCA  
 1351 1361 1371 1381 1391 1401 1411 1421

GluAspTyrLeuSerValValLeuAsnGlnLeuCysValLeuHisGluLysThrProValSerAspArgValThr  
 GAAGACTATCTATCCGTGGTCTGAACCAAGTTATGTTGATGAGAAAACGCCAGTAAGTGACAGAGTCACC  
 1426 1436 1446 1456 1466 1476 1486 1496

LysCysCysThrGluSerLeuValAsnArgArgProCysPheSerAlaLeuGluValAspGluThrTyrValPro  
 AAATGCTGCACAGAACATCCTGGTGAACAGGCGACCATGCTTTCTAGCTCTGAGAAGTCGATGAAACATACGTTCCC  
 1501 1511 1521 1531 1541 1551 1561 1571

LysGluPheAsnAlaGluThrPheThrPheHisAlaAspIleCysThrLeuSerGluLysGluArgGlnIleLys  
 AAAGAGTTAACGCTGAAACATTACCTTCCATGCAGATATATGCACACTTCTGAGAAGGAGAGACAAATCAAG  
 1576 1586 1596 1606 1616 1626 1636 1646

LysGlnThrAlaLeuValGluLeuValLysHisLysProLysAlaThrLysGluGlnLeuLysAlaValMetAsp  
 AAACAAACTGCACCTGTTGAGCTTGTGAAACACAAGCCAAAGGCAACAAAGAGCAACTGAAAGCTGTTATGGAT  
 1651 1661 1671 1681 1691 1701 1711 1721

AspPheAlaAlaPheValGluLysCysCysLysAlaAspAspLysGluThrCysPheAlaGluGluGlyLysLys  
 GATTTCGAGCTTTGTAGAGAAGTGCTGCAAGGCTGACGATAAGGAGACCTGCTTGCCAGGAGGGTAAAAAA  
 1726 1736 1746 1756 1766 1776 1786 1796

LeuValAlaAlaSerGlnAlaAlaLeuGlyLeuLysLysValValLeuGlyLysLysGlyAspThrValGluLeu  
 CTTGTTGCTGCAAGCTGCCTTAGGCTTAAAGAAAGTGGTGTGGCAAGGGATAACAGTGGAACTG  
 1801 1811 1821 1831 1841 1851 1861 1871

ThrCysThrAlaSerGlnLysLysSerIleGlnPheHisTrpLysAsnSerAsnGlnIleLysIleLeuGlyAsn  
 ACCTGTACAGCTTCCCAGAAGAGGCATACAATTCCACTGGAAAAACTCCAACCAAGATAAGATTCTGGAAAT  
 1876 1886 1896 1906 1916 1926 1936 1946

GlnGlySerPheLeuThrLysGlyProSerLysLeuAsnAspArgAlaAspSerArgArgSerLeuTrpAspGln  
 CAGGGCTCCTTCTTAACCAAGGCTGATGCAAGCTGAATGATCGCGCTGACTCAAGAAGAAGCCTTGGGACCAA  
 1951 1961 1971 1981 1991 2001 2011 2021

GlyAsnPheProLeuIleIleLysAsnLeuLysIleGluAspSerAspThrTyrIleCysGluValGluAspGln  
 GGAAACTCCCCCTGATCATCAAGAATCTTAAGATAGAAGACTCAGATACTTACATCTGTGAAGTGGAGGACCAAG  
 2026 2036 2046 2056 2066 2076 2086 2096

LysGluGluValGlnLeuLeuValPheGlyLeuThrAlaAsnSerAspThrHisLeuLeuGlnGlyGlnSerLeu  
 AAGGAGGAGGGTGCATTGCTAGTGTGTCGGATTGACTGCCACTCTGACACCCACCTGCTTCAGGGCAGGCC  
 2101 2111 2121 2131 2141 2151 2161 2171

Figure 8B

ThrLeuThrLeuGluSerProProGlySerSerProSerValGlnCysArgSerProArgGlyLysAsnIleGln  
ACCTGACCTTGGAGAGCCCCCTGGTAGTGGCAATGTAGGAGTCCAAGGGTAAAAACATACAG  
2176 2186 2196 2206 2216 2226 2236 2246

GlyGlyLysThrLeuSerValSerGlnLeuGluLeuGlnAspSerGlyThrTrpThrCysThrValLeuGlnAsn  
GGGGGGAAAGACCCCTCTCCGTGTCTCAGCTGGAGCTCCAGGATAGTGGCACCTGGACATGCACTGTCTGCAGAAC  
2251 2261 2271 2281 2291 2301 2311 2321

GlnLysLysValGluPheLysIleAspIleValValLeuAlaPhe\*\*\*  
CAGAAGAAAGGTGGAGTTCAAAATAGACATCGTGGTGCTAGCTTCTAAAAGCTT  
2326 2336 2346 2356 2366 2376

Figure 8C

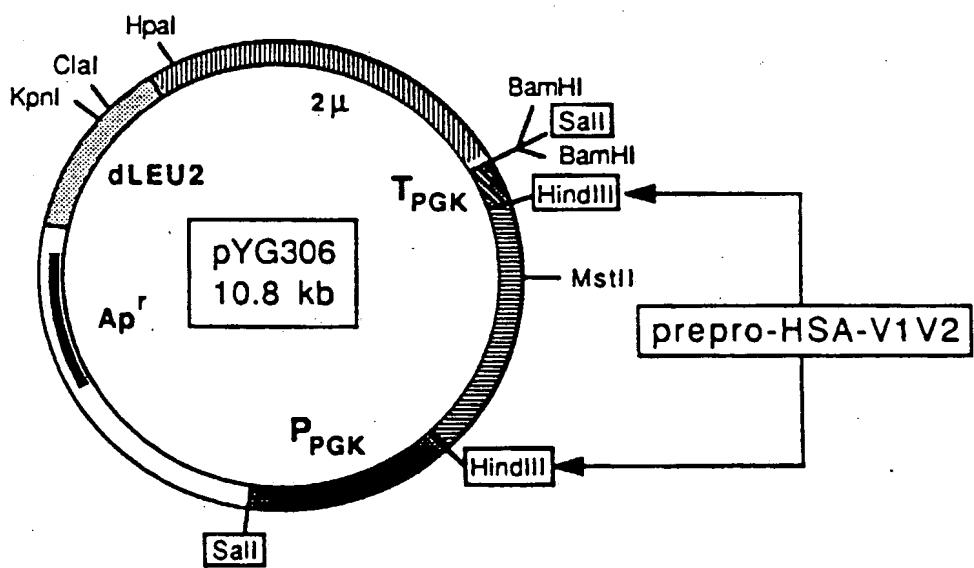


Figure 9

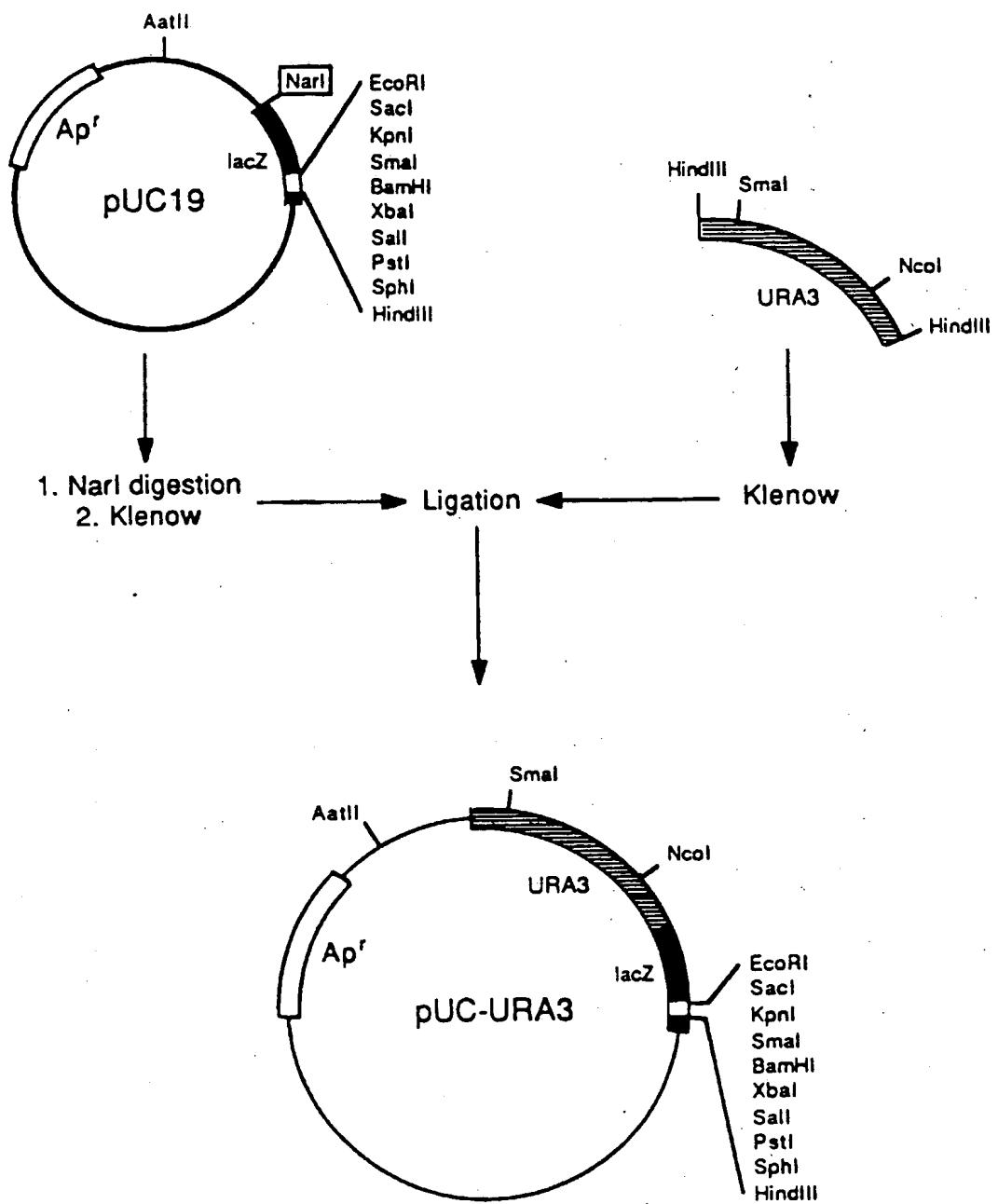


Figure 10

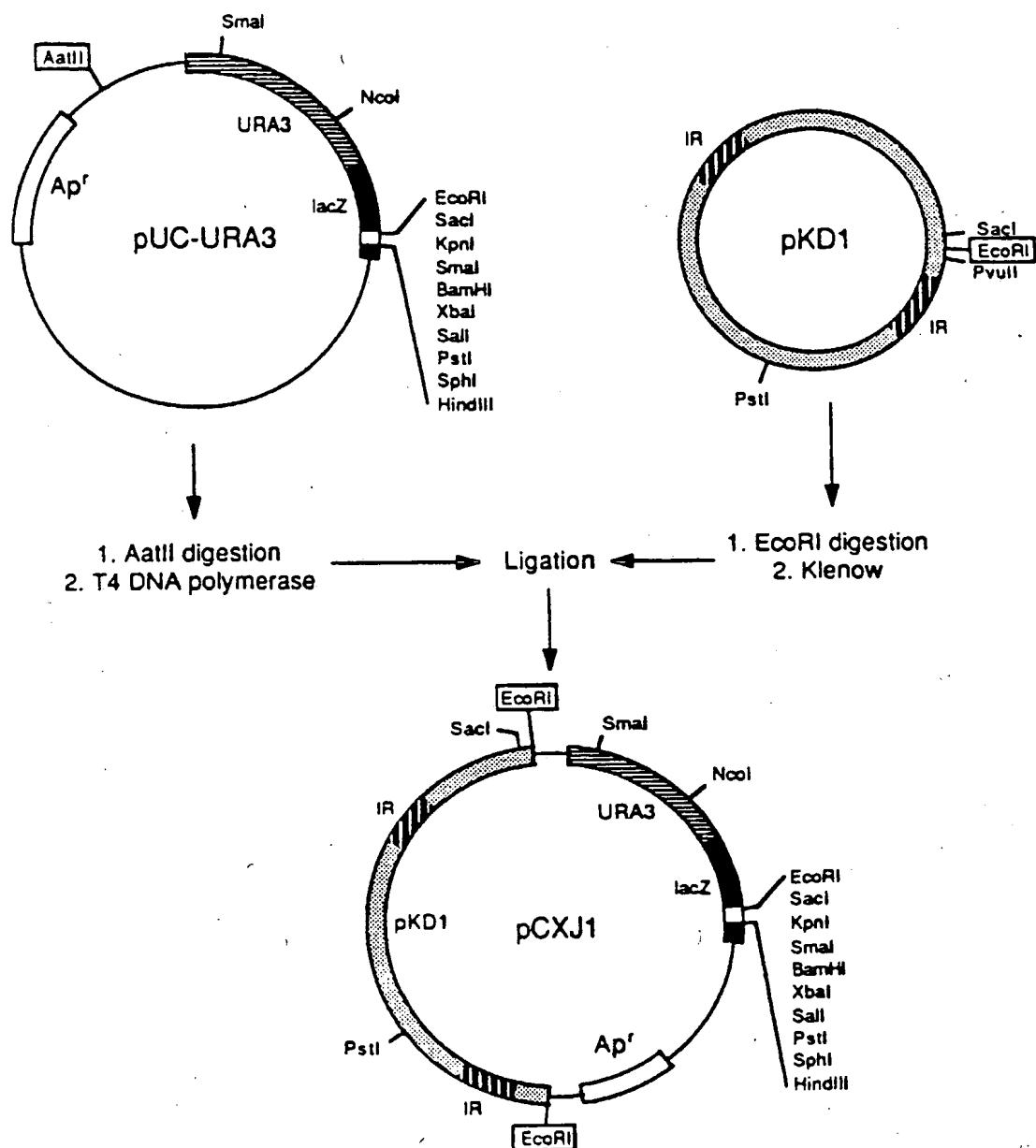


Figure 11

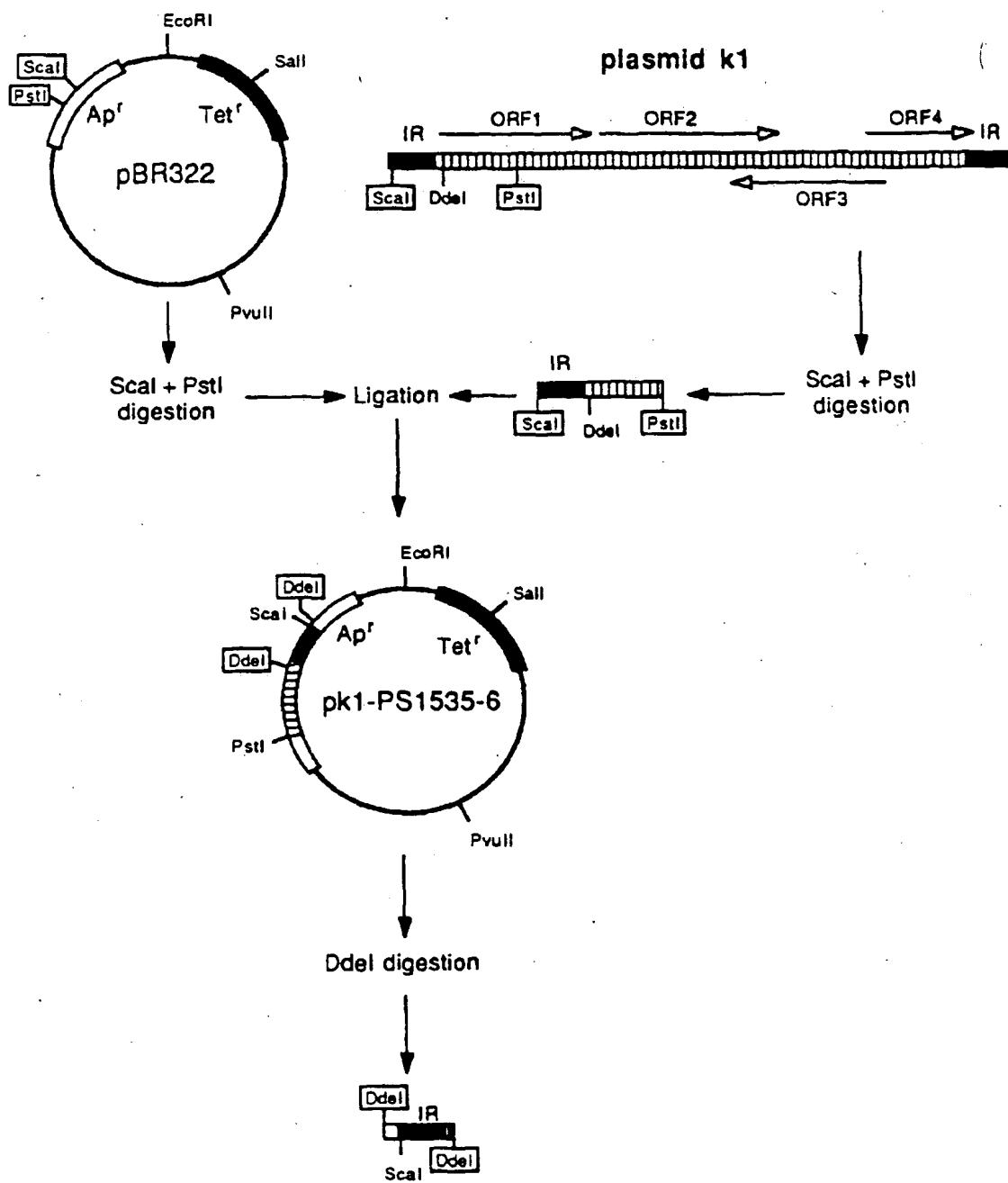


Figure 12

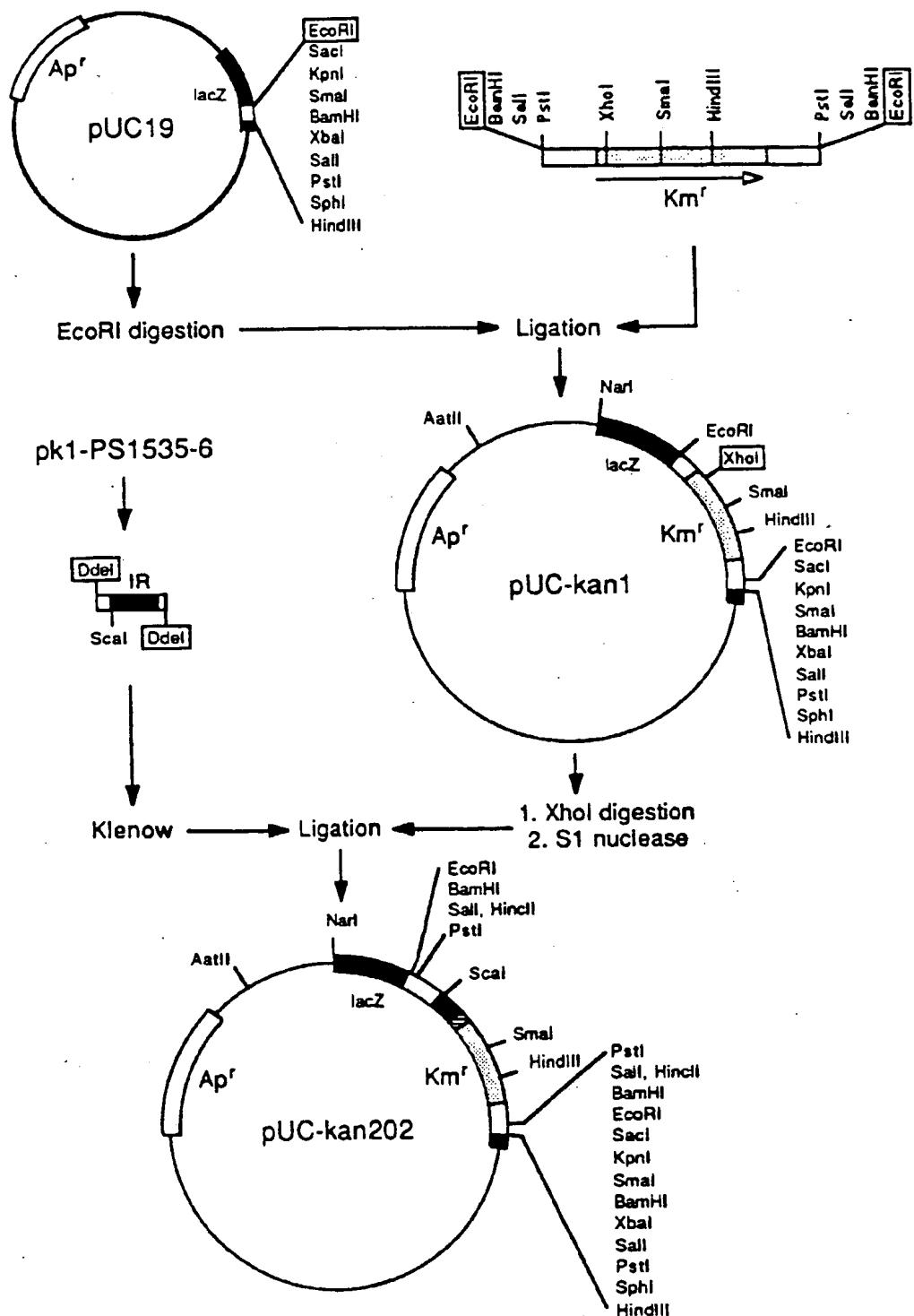


Figure 13

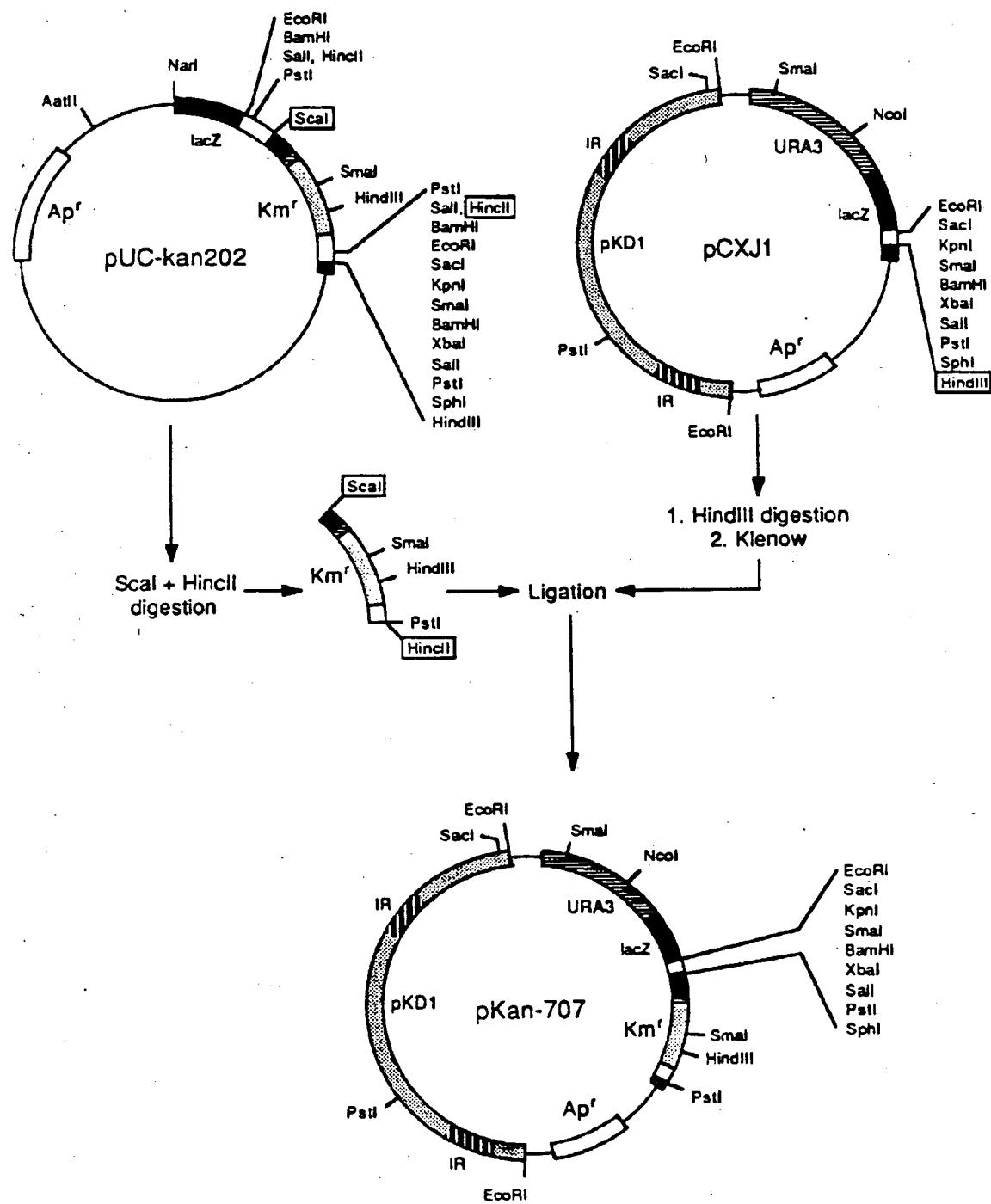


Figure 14

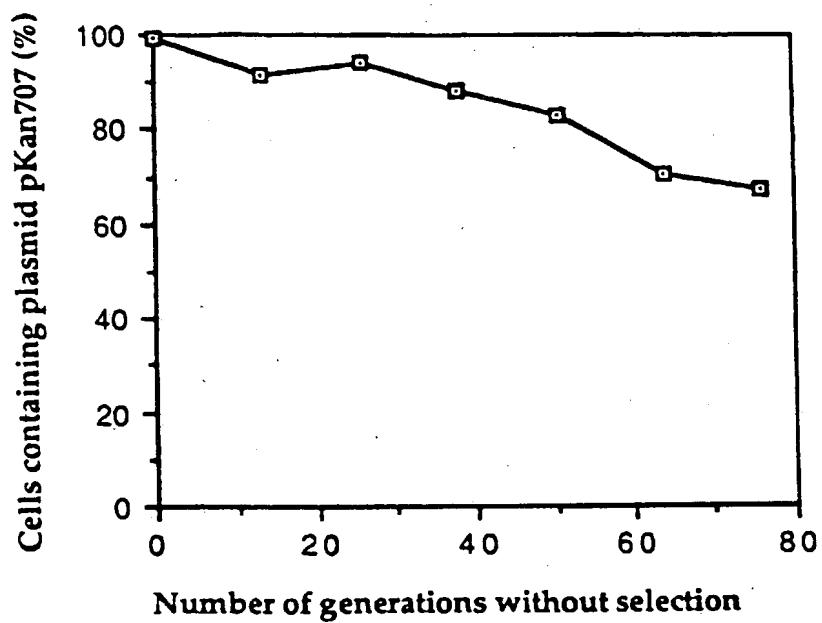


Figure 15

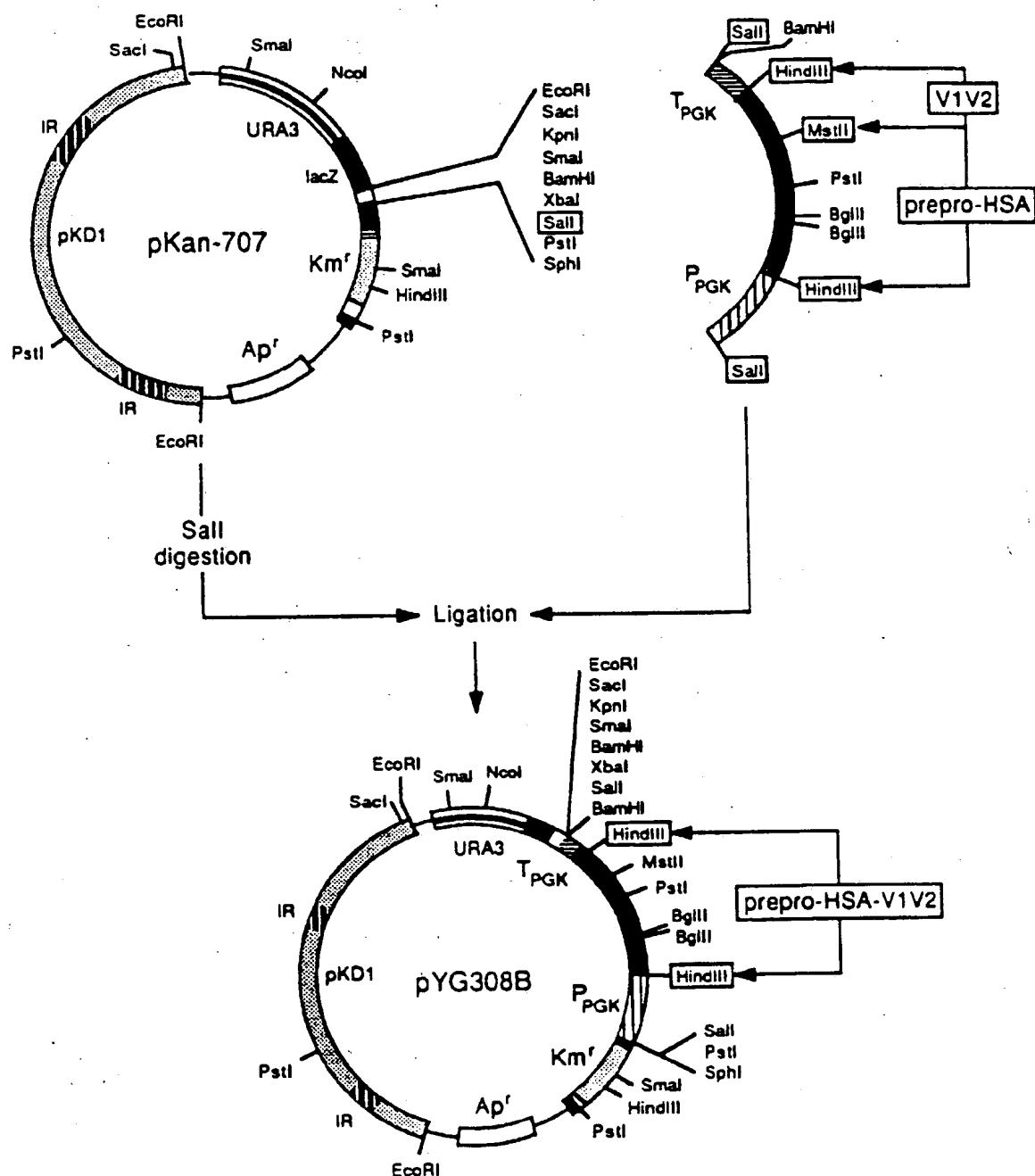


Figure 16

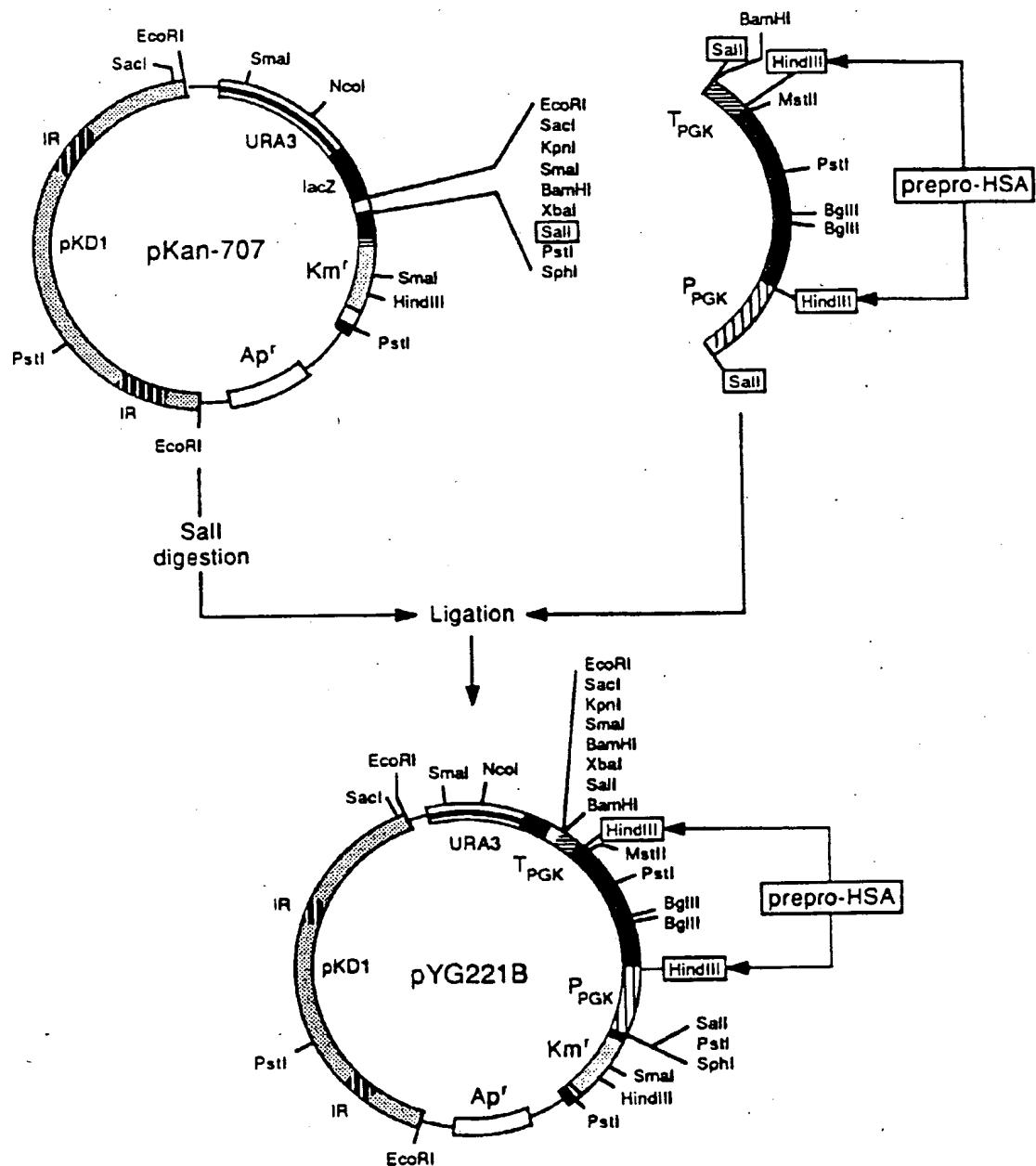


Figure 17

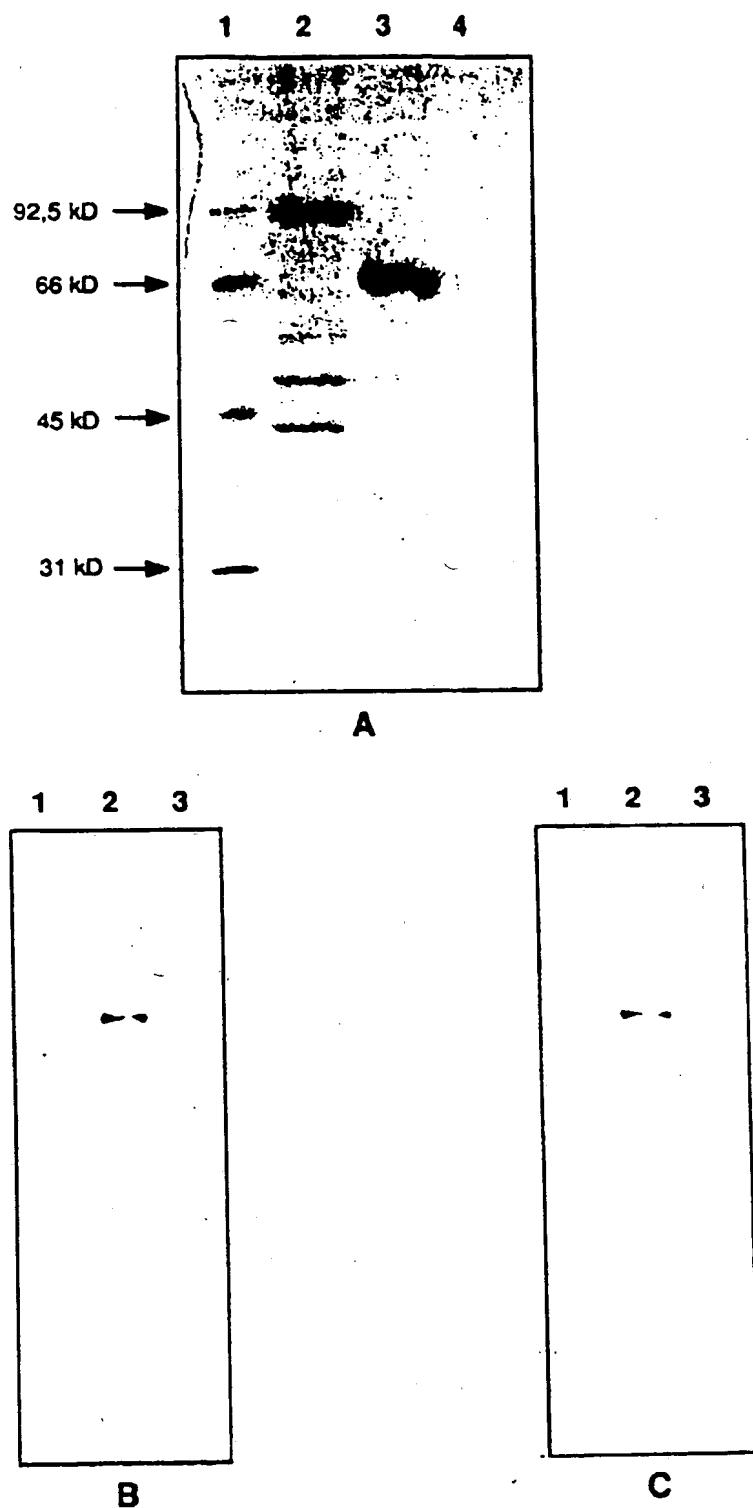


Figure 18

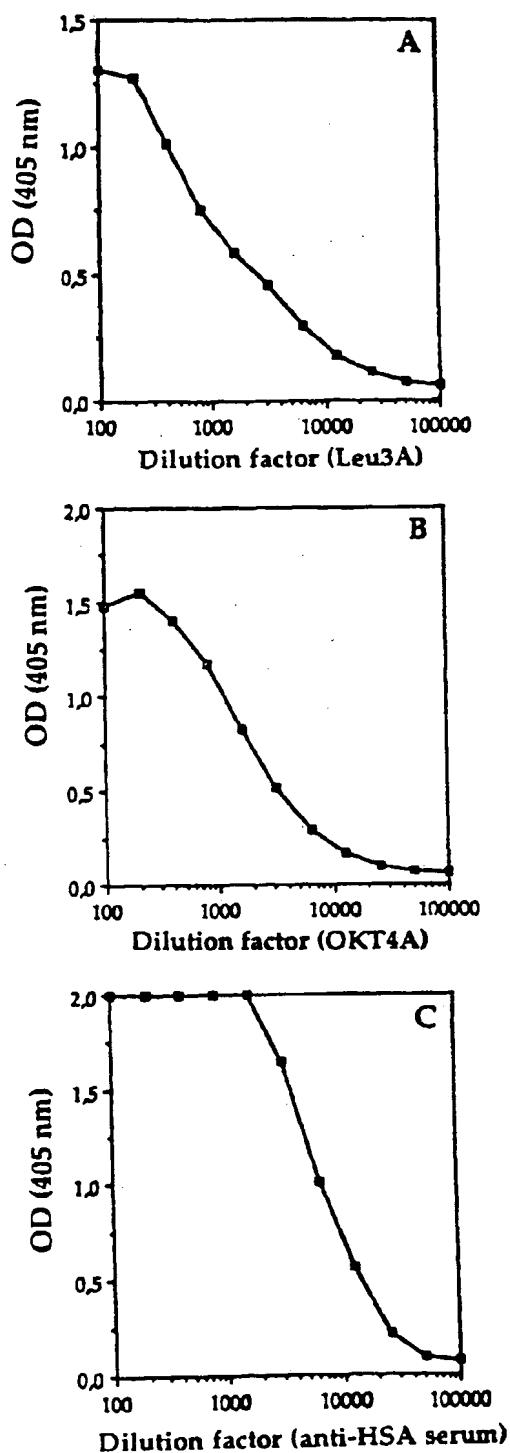


Figure 19

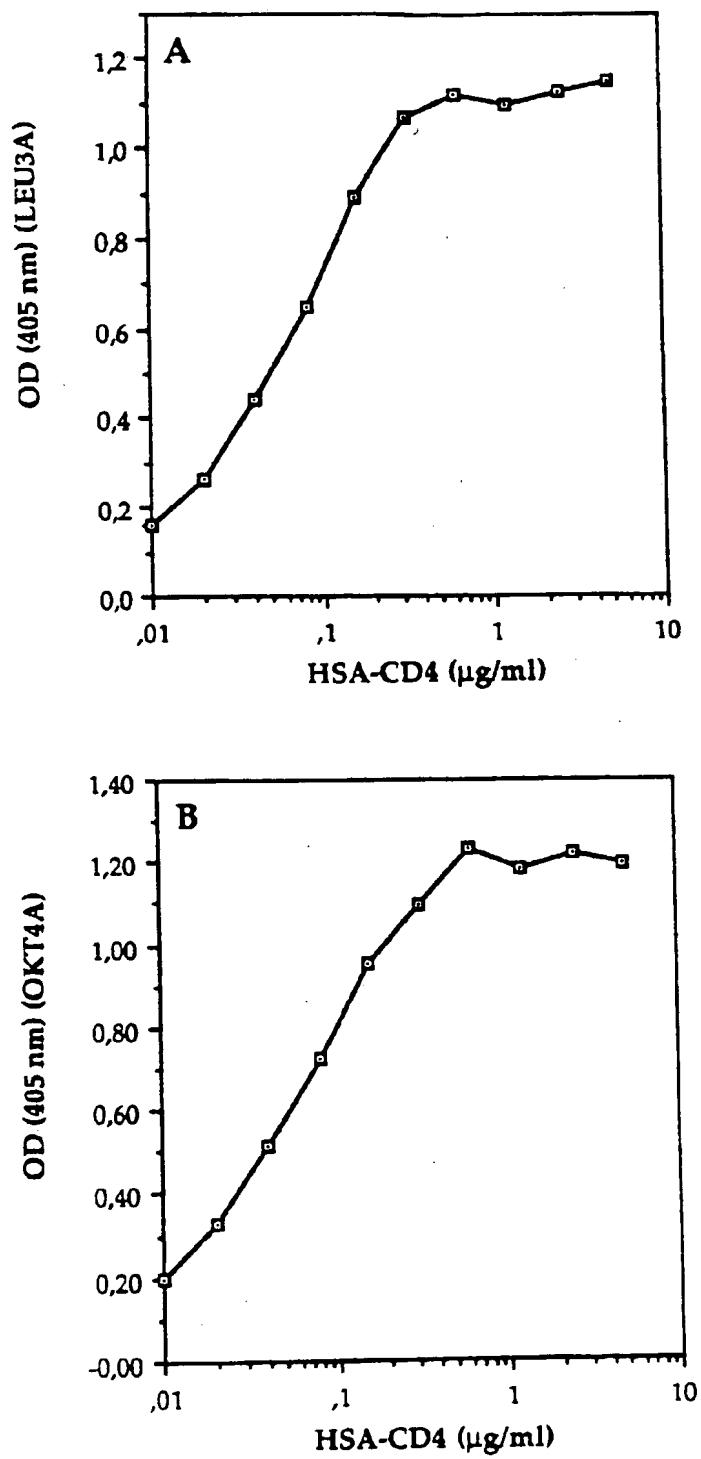


Figure 20

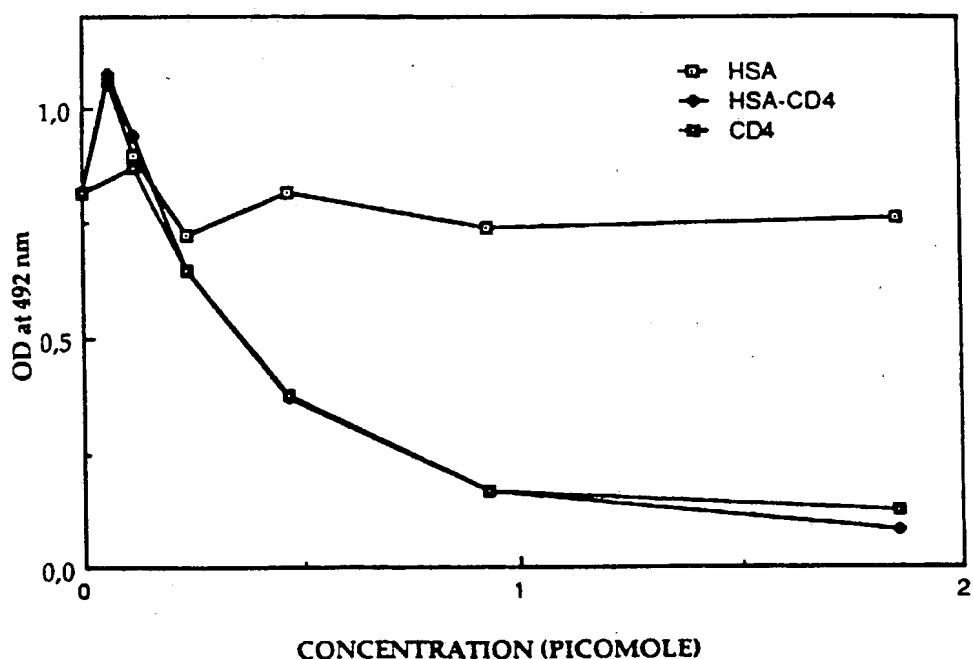


Figure 21

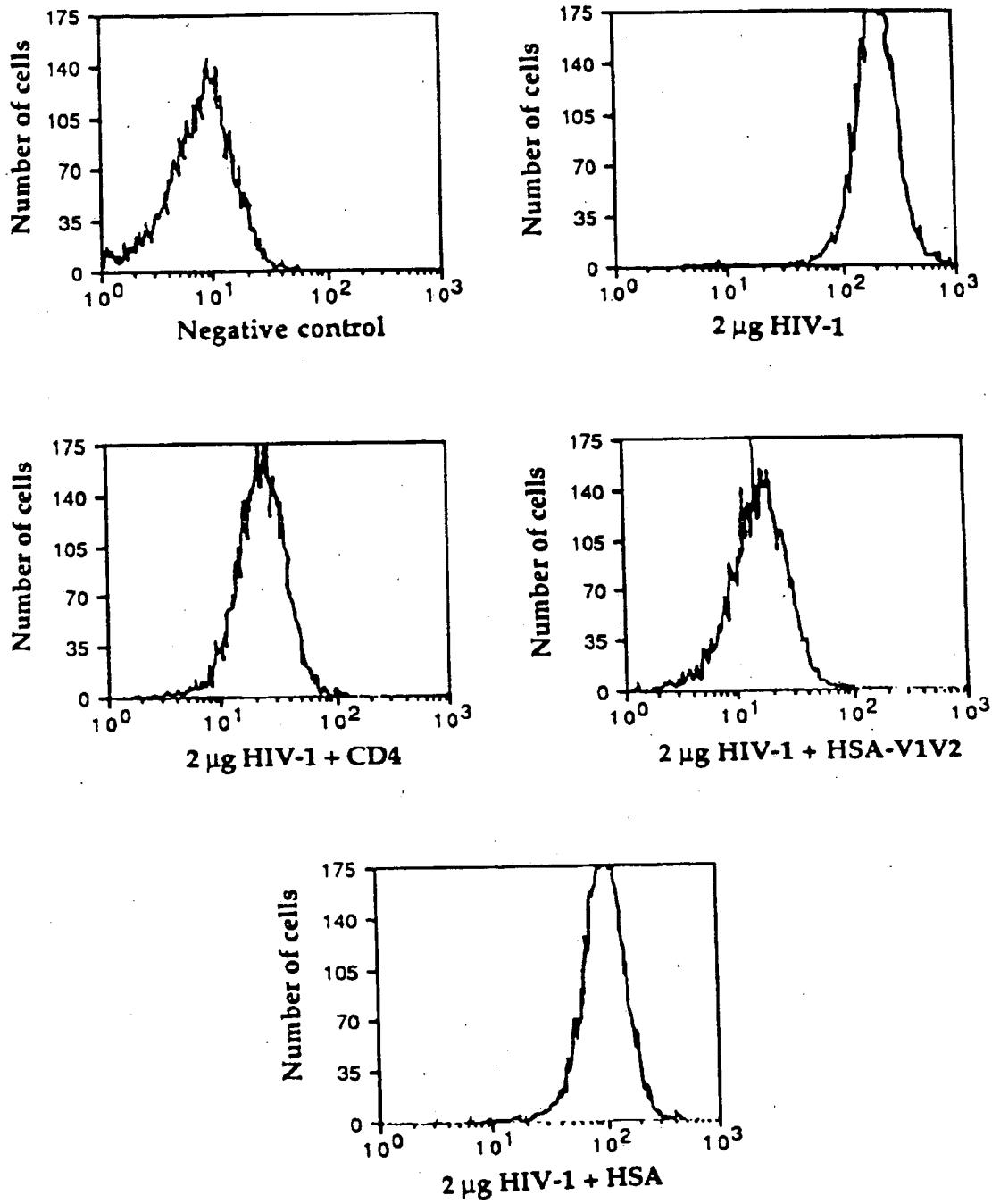


Figure 22A

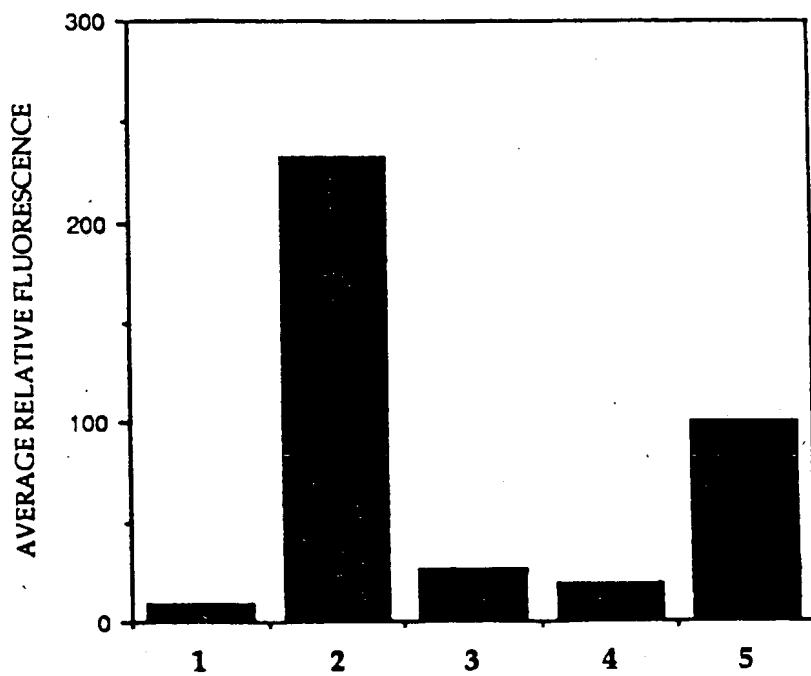


Figure 22B

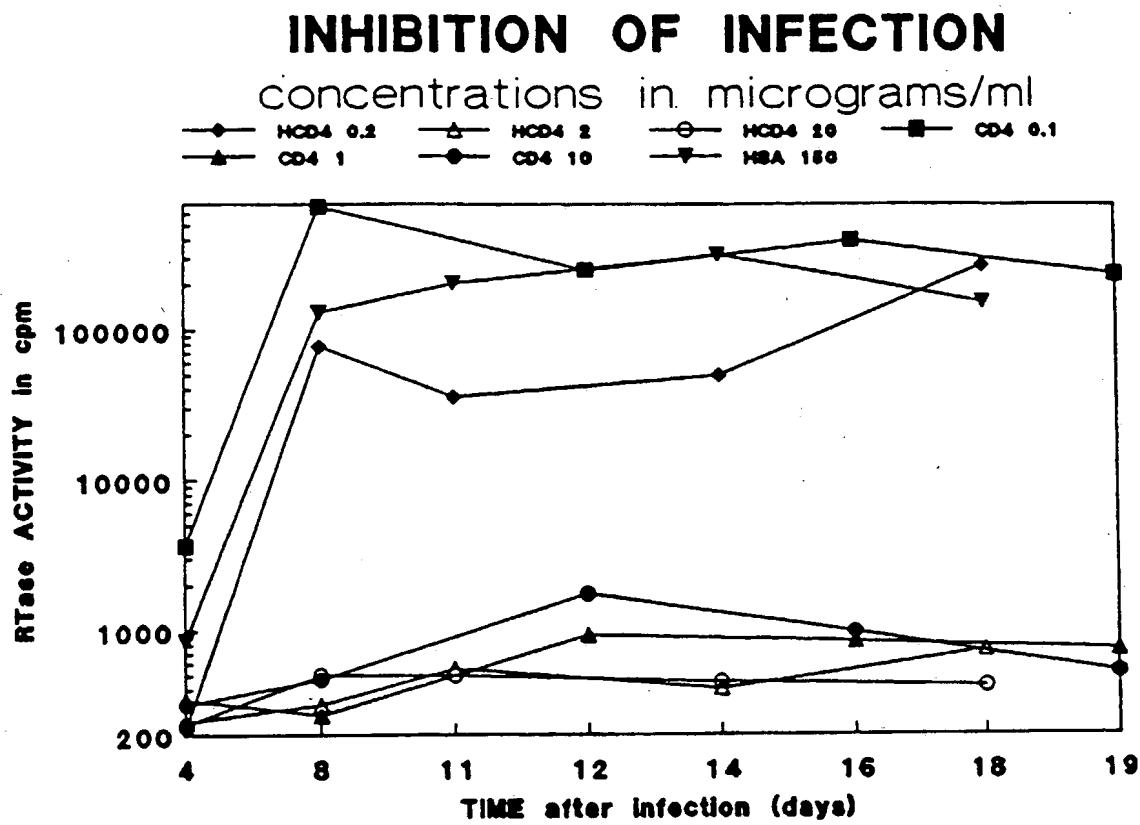


Figure 23

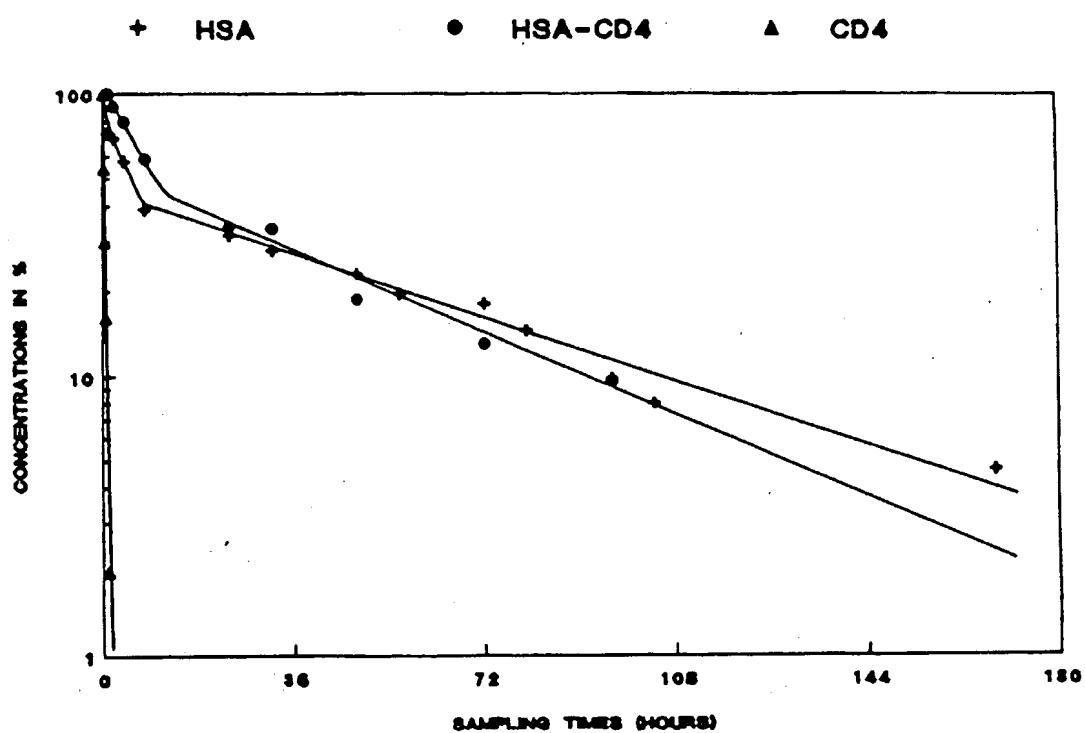


Figure 24

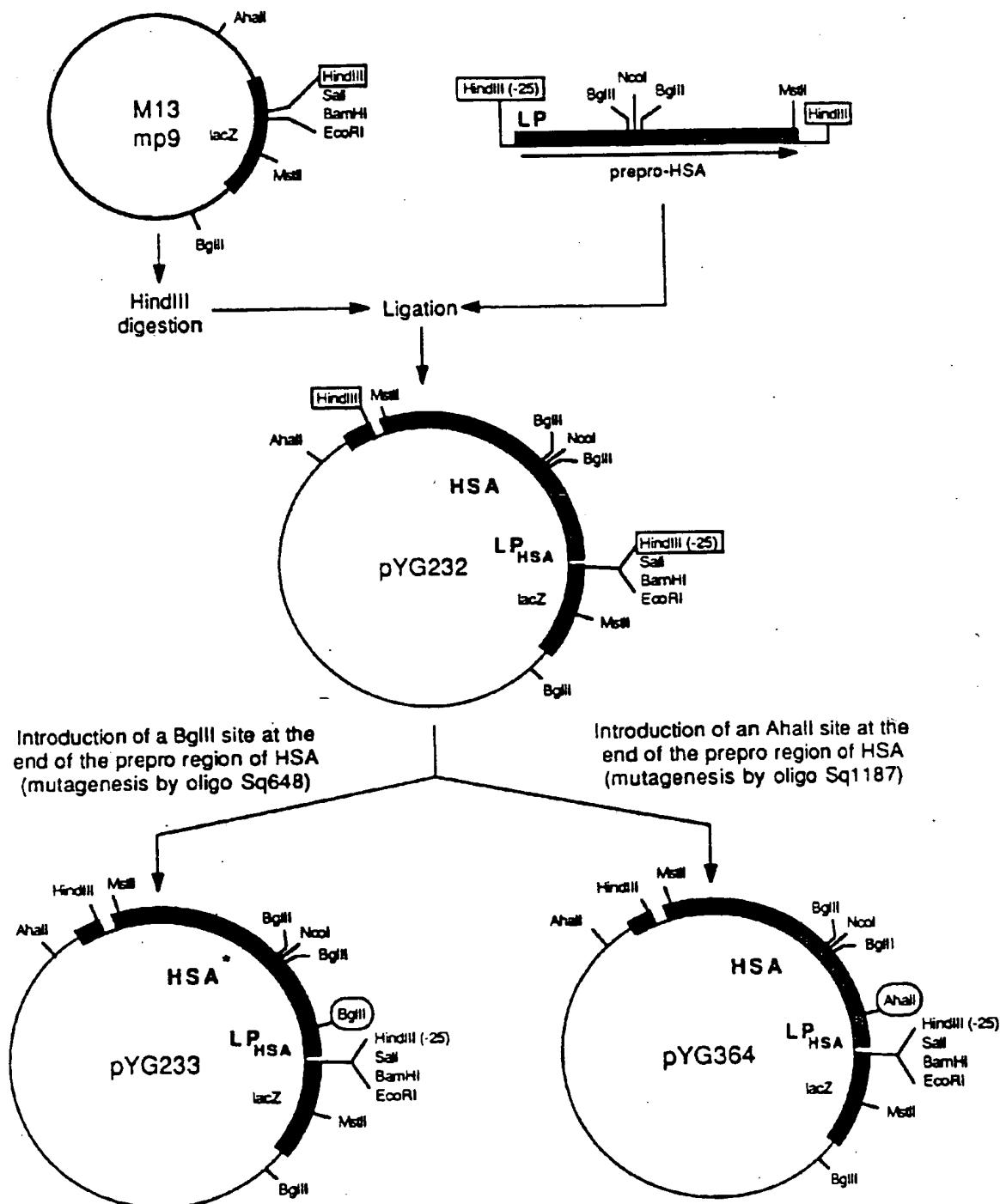


Figure 25

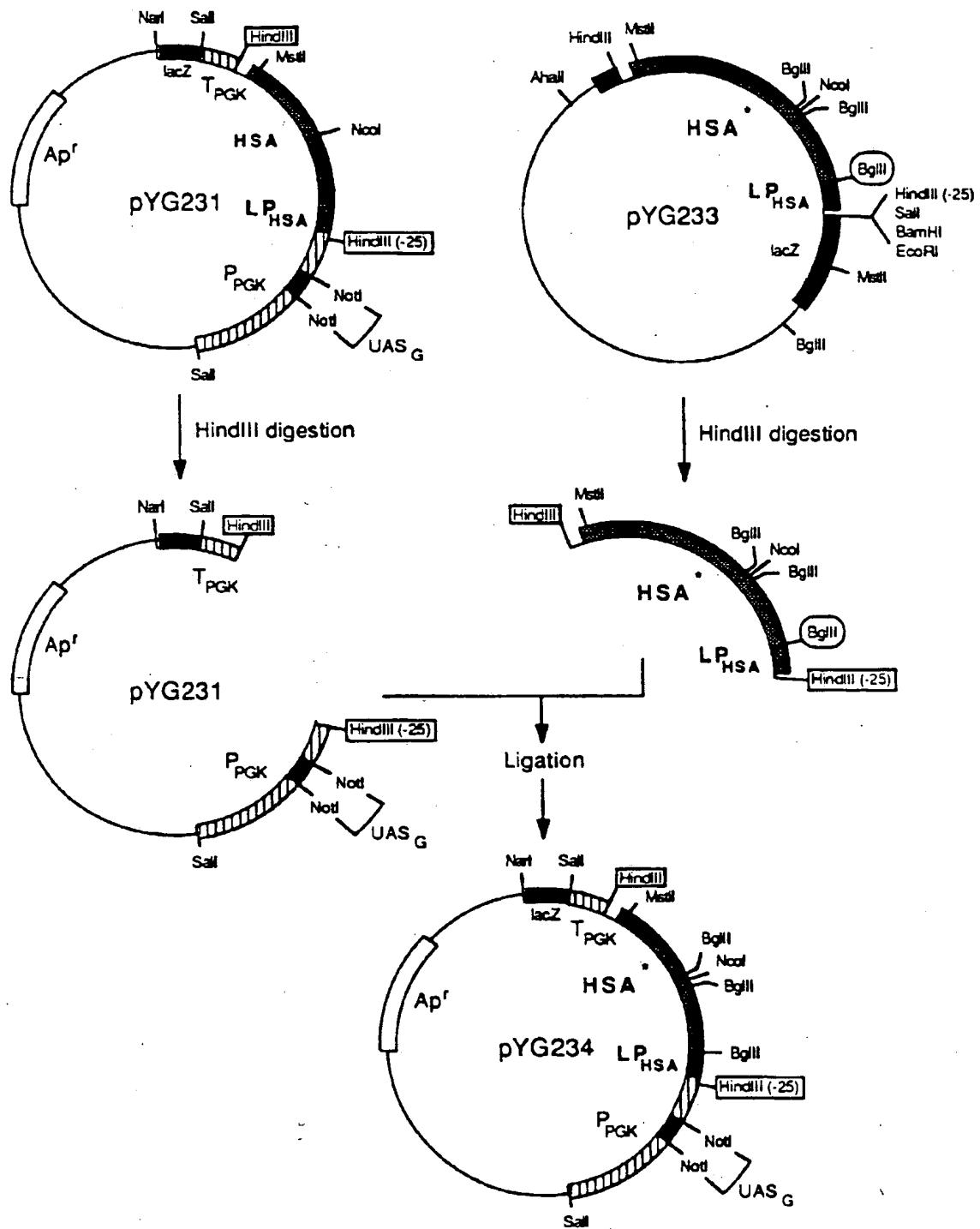


Figure 26

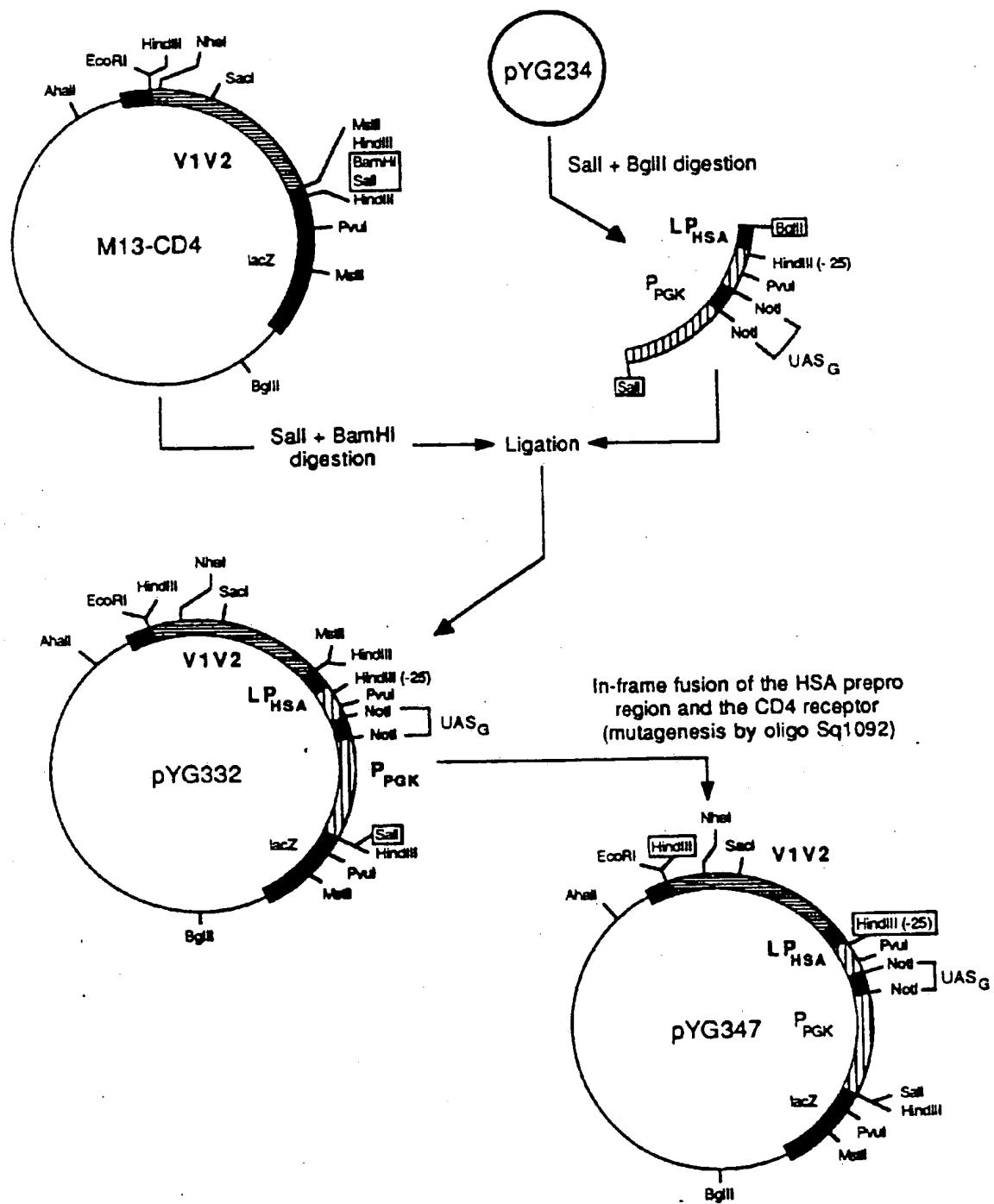


Figure 27

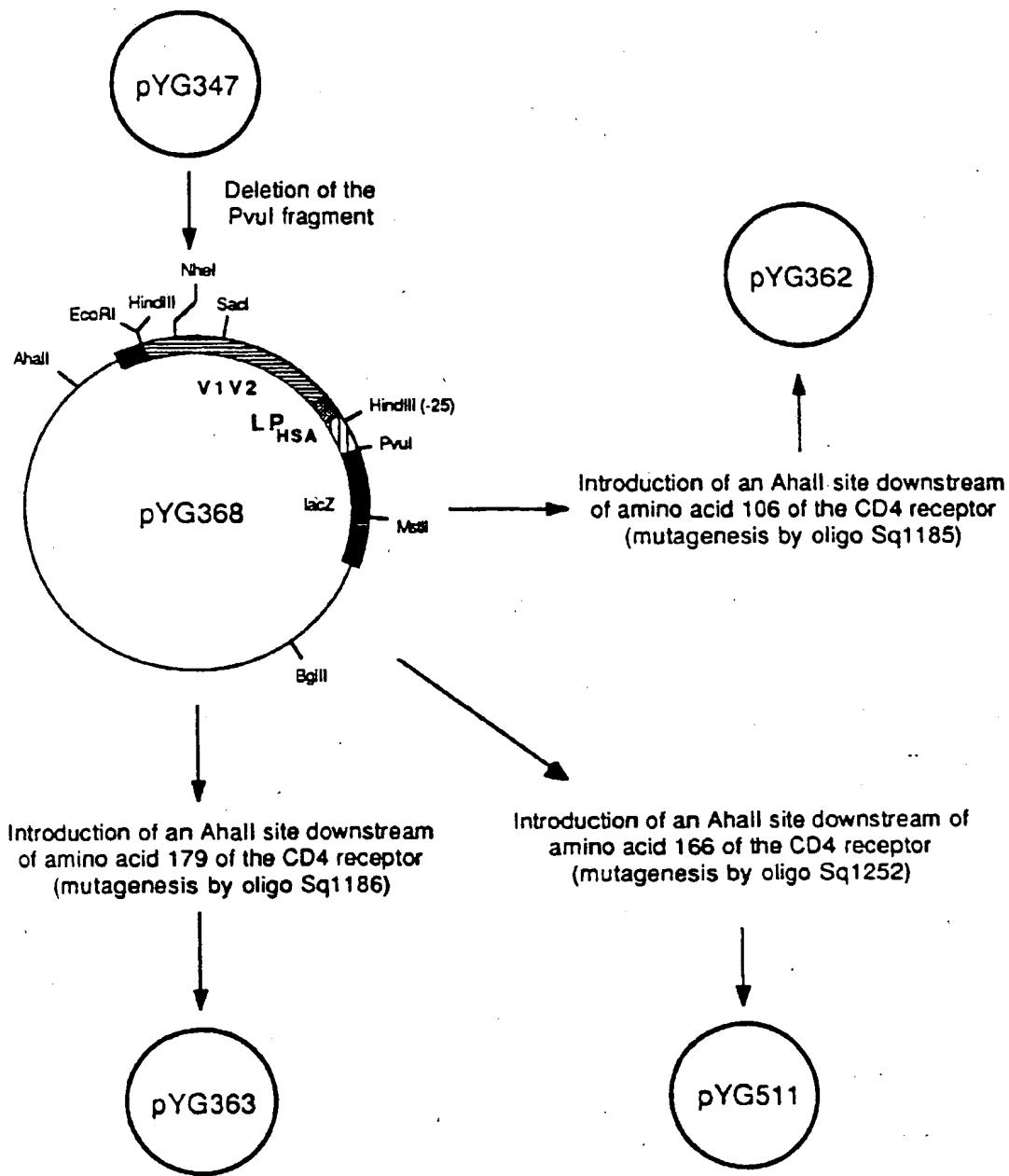


Figure 28

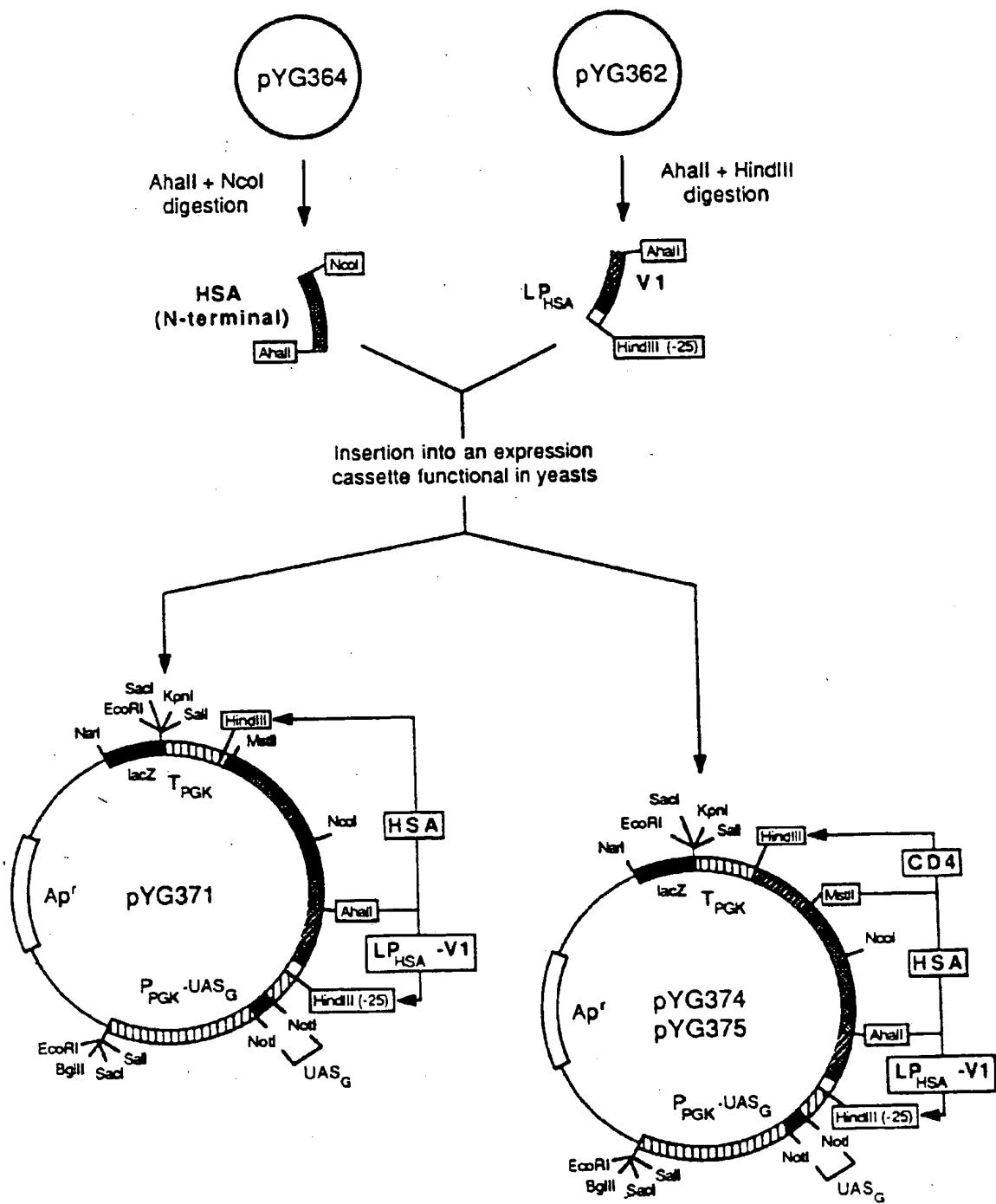


Figure 29

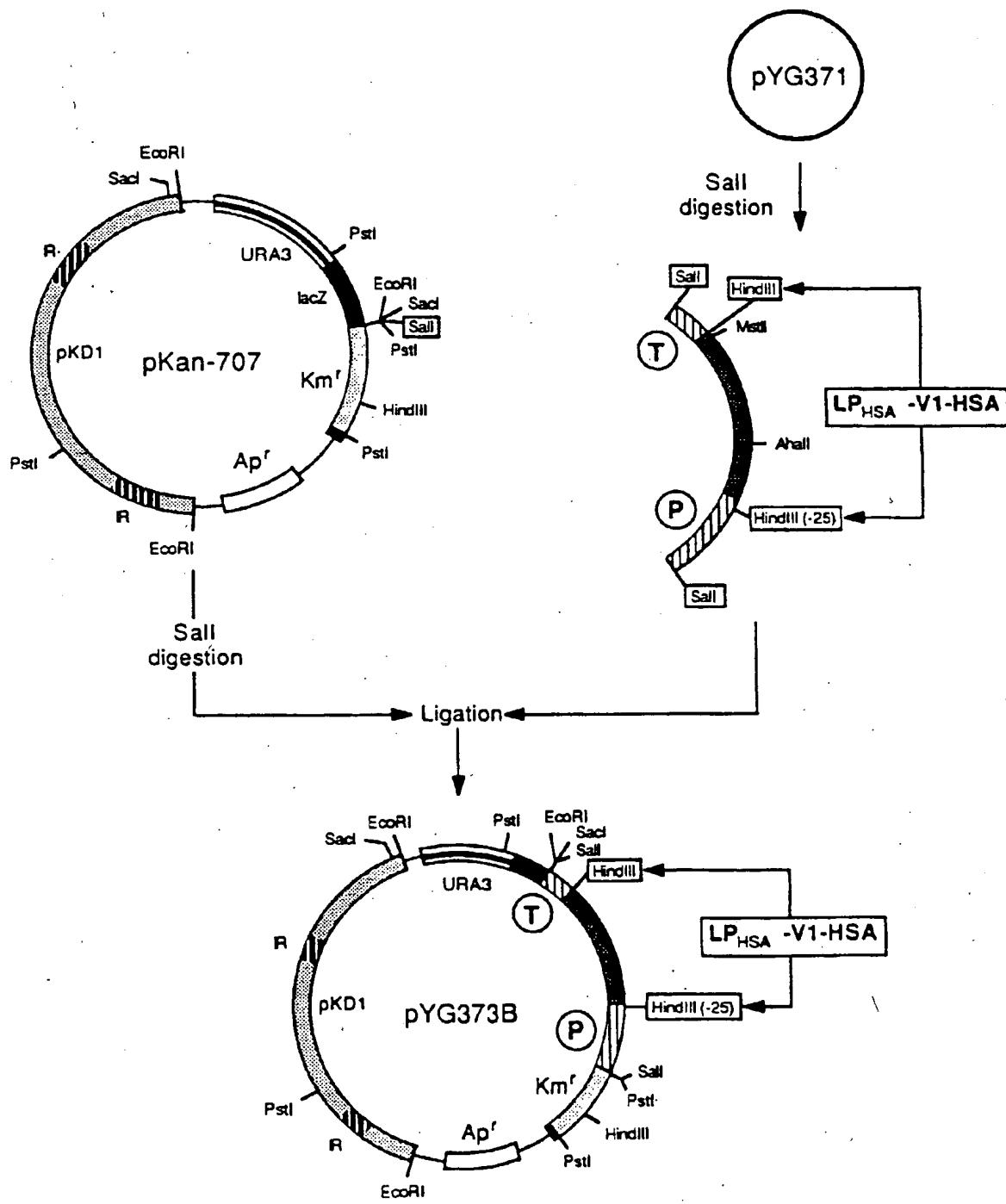


Figure 30

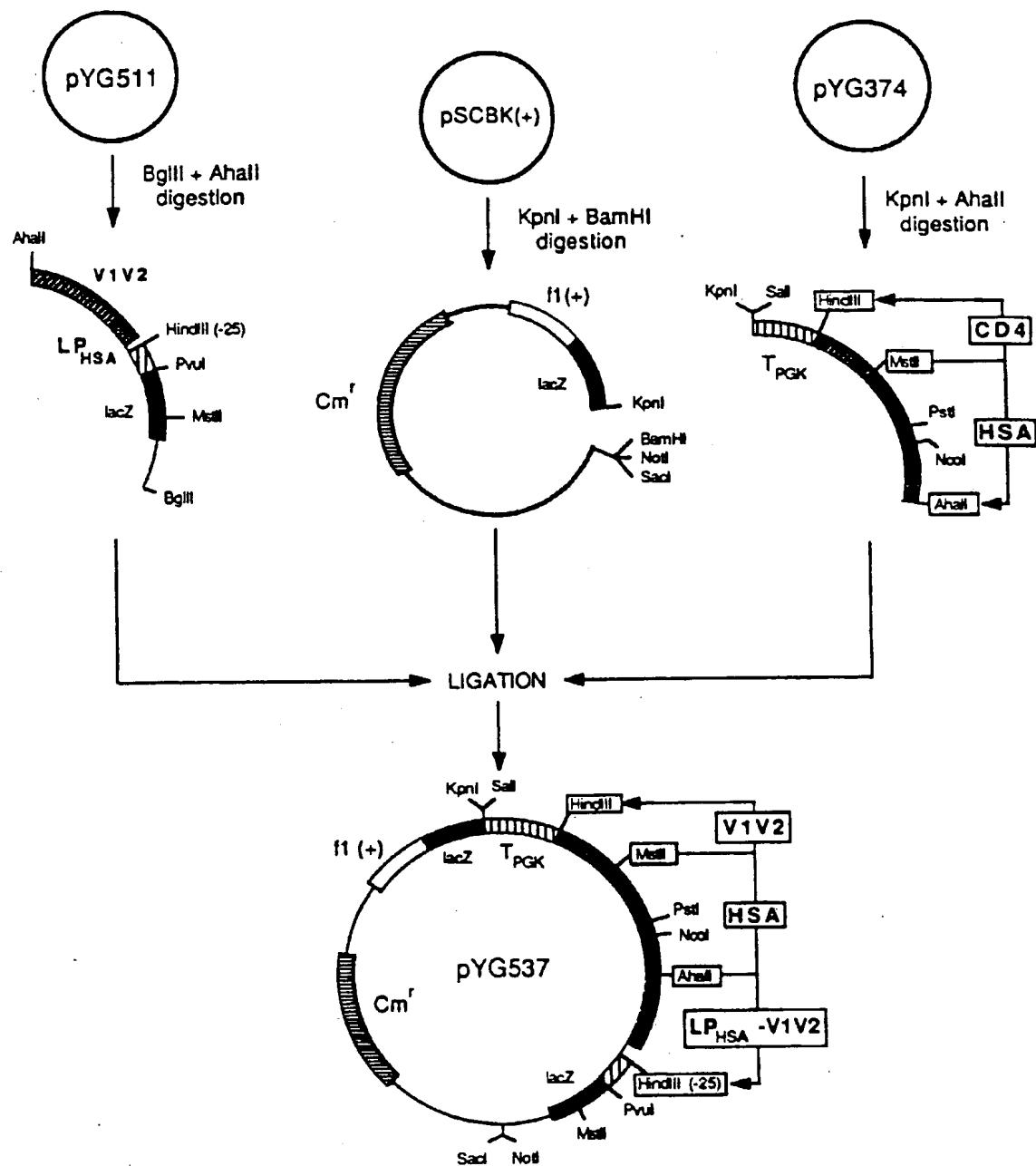


Figure 31

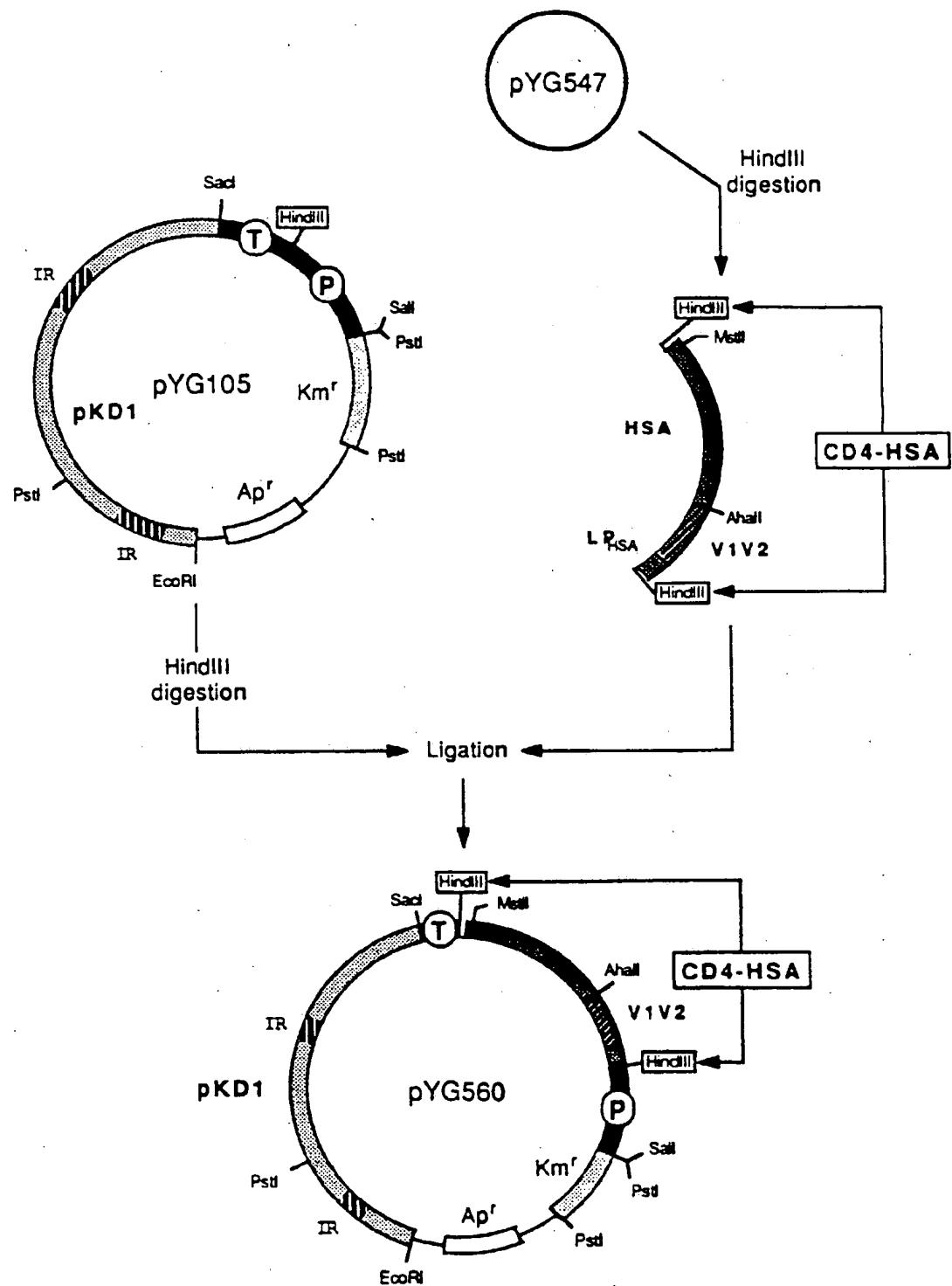


Figure 32

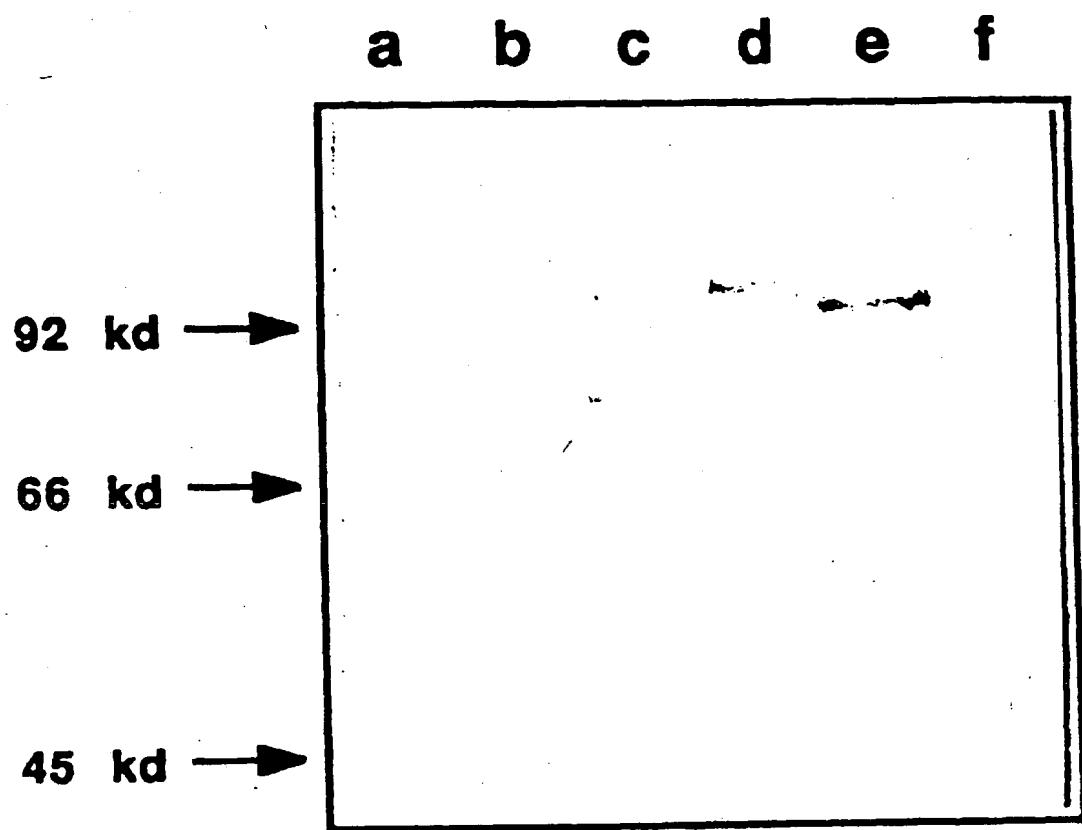


Figure 33

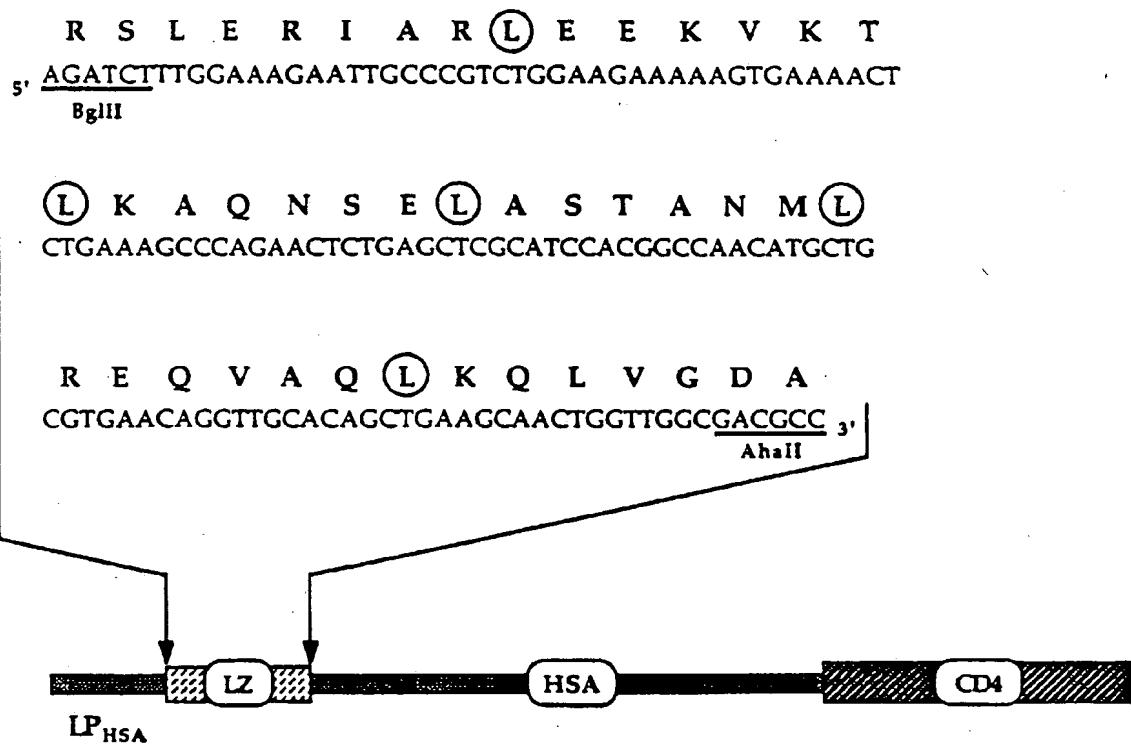


Figure 34

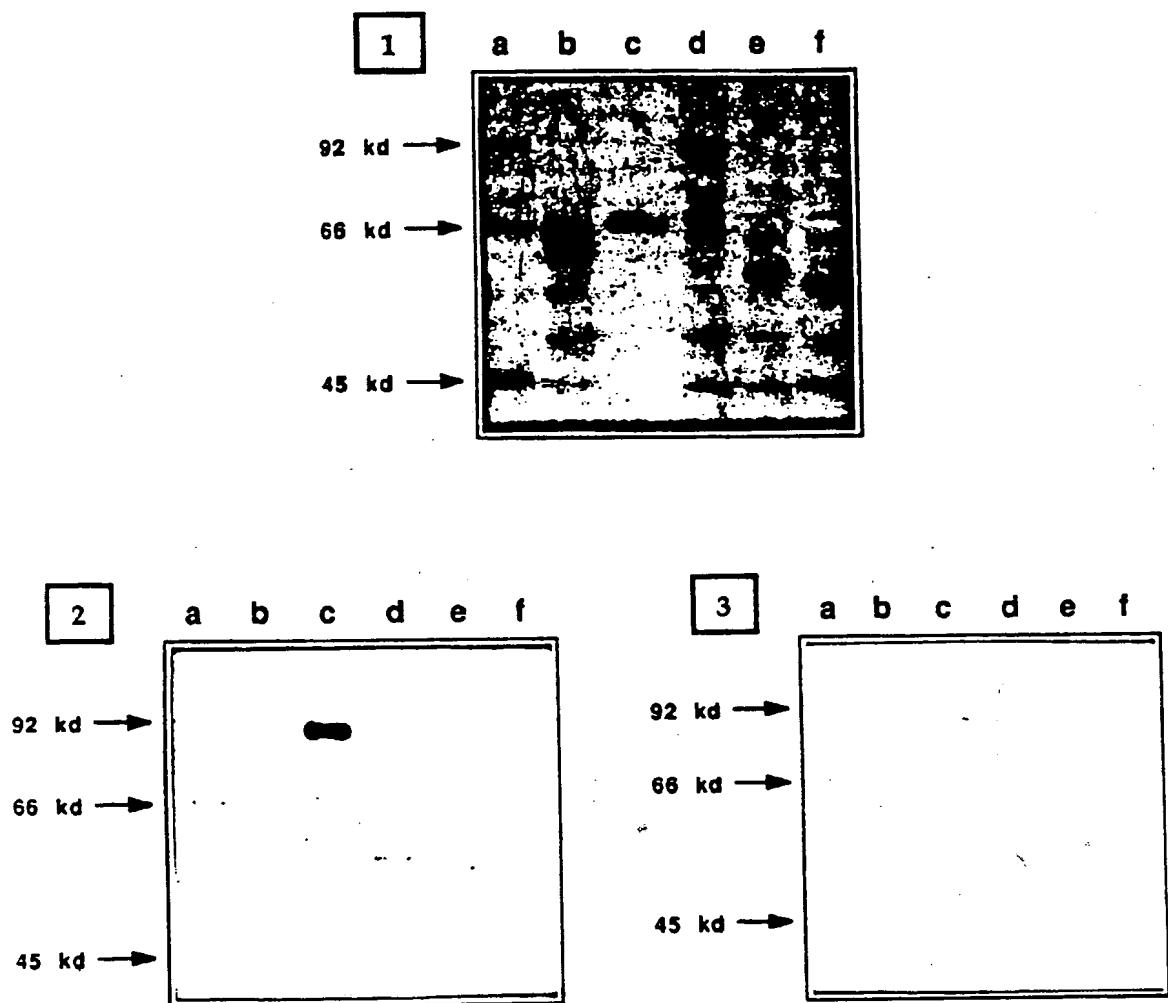


Figure 35

<b>a</b>	<b>HSA (585)</b>
	<b>YP39 (579)</b>
	<b>YP60 (578)</b>
	<b>YP61 (577)</b>
	<b>YP76 (568)</b>
	<b>YP82 (505)</b>
	<b>YP63 (495)</b>
	<b>YP27 (478)</b>
	<b>YP65 (459)</b>
	<b>YP78 (430)</b>
	<b>YP92 (404)</b>
	<b>YP40 (379)</b>
	<b>YP88 (351)</b>
	<b>YP90 (303)</b>
	<b>YP70 (292)</b>
	<b>YP62 (272)</b>
	<b>YP74 (254)</b>
	<b>YP51 (233)</b>
	<b>YP86 (201)</b>

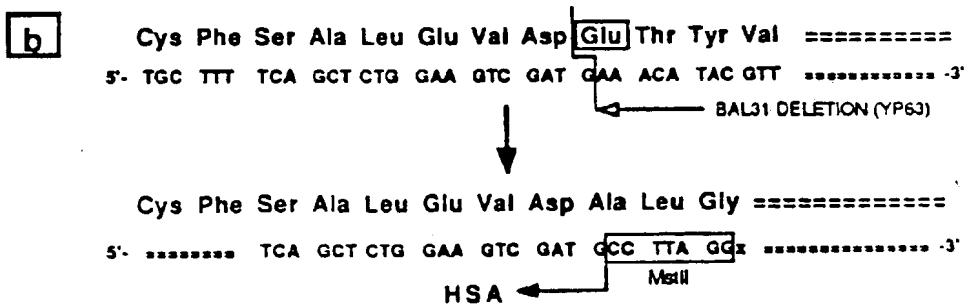


Figure 36

1

C F A E E G **KK** L V A A S Q A A L G L **KK** V V L G **KK** G D T V E L T C  
HSA ← CD4

2

C ----- S  
P  
T  
HSA ← A  
L G L K **X** V V L G K **X** G D T V E L T C  
CD4

3

C F A E E G **K** E D A K G K S E E E A L G L **KK** V V L G **KK** G D T  
HSA ← CD4

4

C ----- JUNCTION  
PEPTIDE  
(OPTIONAL) ----- C  
HSA ← C  
CD4

Figure 37

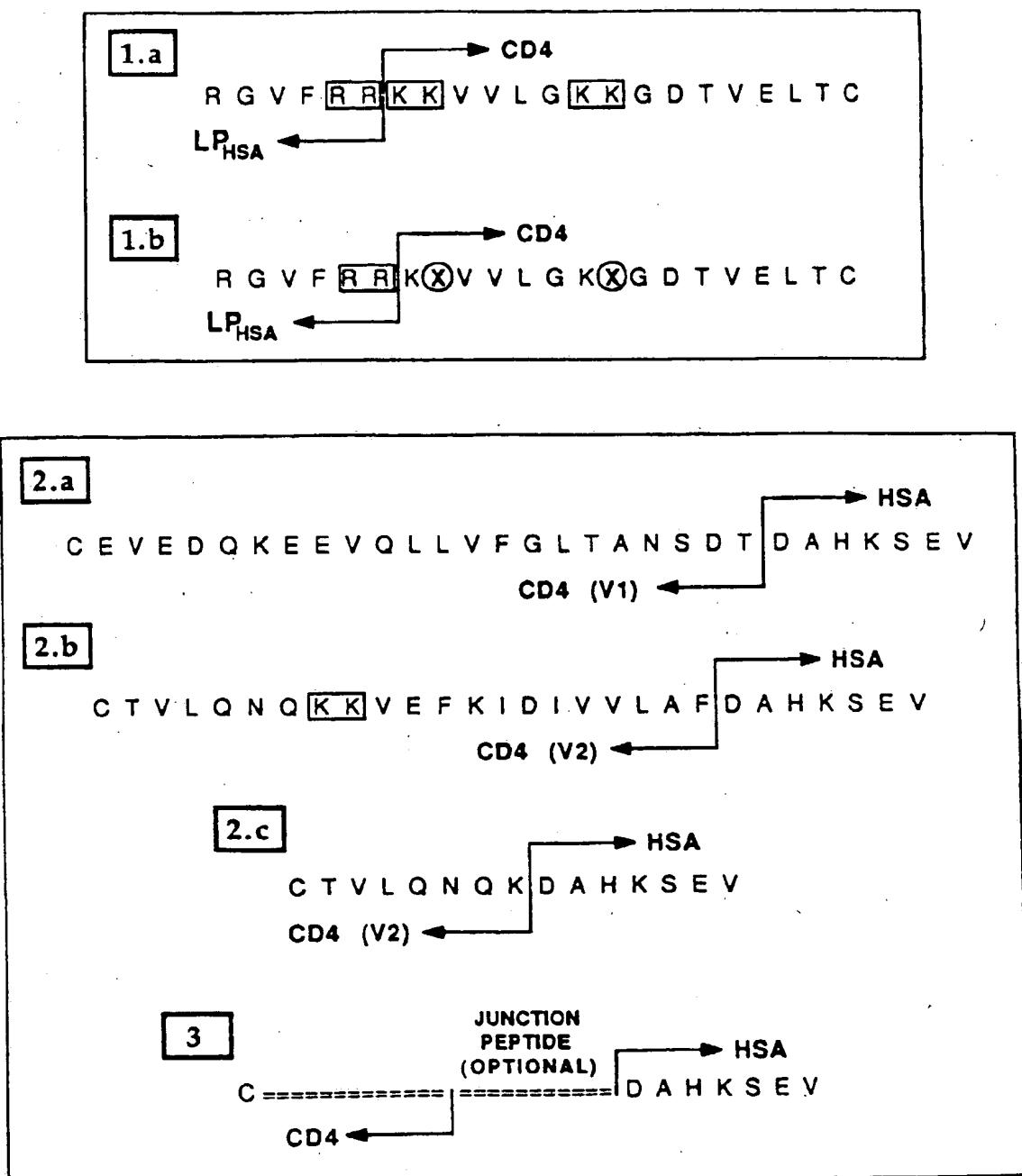


Figure 38